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Arab-Israeli Talks

Cairo Talks Focus on Security, Civilian Issues

'Deep' Differences Explored

NC1904111594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed today with the objective of implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The Palestinian side to the talks is chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, and the Israeli side by General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff.

Dr. Sha'th affirmed that the negotiators will discuss during their meeting today the same subjects they started discussing yesterday and on which they made no progress.

Palestinian sources have affirmed to MENA that the two sides are trying to overcome the big obstacles before the negotiations, especially in the framework of the two committees, the Security Committee and the Legal Affairs Committee. Foremost of these issues is legal jurisdiction over the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, as well as control over the crossings and the border points and the release of the Palestinian detainees who are estimated to be around 10,400 people, according to the statistics of the International Red Cross.

Palestinian sources clarified that the Palestinian negotiators insist that all Palestinian detainees should be released, irrespective of their political affiliation. The objective is to guarantee that no split takes place inside the Palestinian ranks. On the other hand, the Israeli side insists on not releasing any of the Hamas members since some of its members recently carried out some suicide attacks on Israelis.

The sources said that the Palestinian-Israeli Civilian Affairs Committee will today discuss the subject of contacts in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, in addition to providing the Palestinian side with a number of wavelengths and frequencies to be used by the police and other services.

The sources pointed out that in the case where the deep differences between the two sides continue over many basic issues, the leaderships of the two sides will have to intervene to rescue the negotiations from collapse.

Sha'th on Progress, Relations With Hamas

JN1904155894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks with the Israelis, by radio correspondent 'Umar Zaydani, in Cairo on 18 April; from the "With the Midday Events"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Zaydani] Dr. Nabil Sha'th last night summed up the negotiations which lasted 12 hours between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Sha'th] Negotiations are continuing with all their committees. A large group of experts in various fields was added to the Palestinian delegation this week. Today, there were some positive developments. They are slow, but proceeding persistently regarding the security issues. Some progress was made also on the jurisdiction issue. [passage omitted]

[Zaydani] We understand that the Israeli delegation submitted to discussion the issue of relations between Fatah and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

[Sha'th] For the tenth time, I would like to explain that relations between Fatah and Hamas, or between Fatah or any other Palestinian organization, is a 100 percent internal issue, and a PLO affair only. We want Palestinian national unity. We spare no effort to create a framework of Palestinian understanding and Palestinian participation when the Palestinian entity sees light. However, at the same time, we are very clear, we are committed to this agreement and to its full implementation. Our desire to have the biggest possible number of Palestinians contribute to our decision making does not at all mean we will relinquish our commitments to this agreement. [end recording]

[Zaydani] Dr. Nabil Sha'th was asked about his opinion of measures taken in Amman to the effect that the Hamas Movement is an illegal movement in Jordan.

[Begin Sha'th recording] I prefer not to comment on this issue. I believe all Palestinian factions will eventually find their true house within the PLO and on Palestinian territory. His Majesty King Husayn reiterated that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians. The PLO is the side that is responsible and must be responsible for protecting the entire Palestinian house. [end recording]

Israel Said 'Backtracking' on Prisoner Issue

NC1904173794 Paris 1551 AFP in English GMT 19 Apr 94

["Israel, PLO Strike Communications Deal" by Mona Salem]

[Text] Cairo, April 19 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO struck a deal Tuesday [19 April] on communications systems for Gaza and Jericho in another step toward the launch of Palestinian autonomy, chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th said.

"We have just completed a difficult agreement which took a lot of time and (which gives) to the autonomy authority the right to obtain the necessary frequencies for the Palestinian police," Sha'th said.

"An accord was also reached on giving the Palestinians a radio station and telephone network," he said without giving details.

Each side had claimed the right to decide on their own frequencies, with Israel wanting to avoid disrupting its existing bands, an Israeli negotiator told AFP earlier.

The communications accord follows deals last week to set up a Palestinian police force and release 5,000 prisoners, but PLO officials on Tuesday accused Israel of backtracking on the prisoner issue.

One official who requested anonymity said Israel refused to set a date for freeing 1,000 of the prisoners until it received a PLO assurance that the Palestinian police "had the situation well under control."

The official who asked not to be named said the 1,000 were all serving long sentences for crimes judged serious by Israel.

PLO negotiator Muhammad Dahlan said Israel took a tougher line on the prisoners after the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas carried out attacks that killed 12 Israelis this month.

Israel "now categorically rejected the release of certain Hamas members," said Dahlan, who is in charge of the prisoner file.

Under last week's accord 2,500 prisoners are to be released when Israel and the PLO sign a final accord to launch self-rule in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

An additional 2,500 prisoners would be set free three weeks later when limited autonomous powers were transferred to the Palestinians. More than 10,000 Palestinians are estimated to be in Israeli jails.

A PLO negotiator said that Israeli proposals on jurisdiction in the self-rule areas still fell short of Palestinian demands. The two sides had also to settle the issue of water sharing between Israelis and Palestinians.

In the Gaza Strip and West Bank, Israeli troops arrested about 285 suspected Islamic fundamentalists in a major crackdown following a series of revenge attacks for the Hebron massacre, Palestinian sources said.

The vast majority were suspected of links with Hamas, which has claimed the bombings of two buses in which 12 Israelis died, and an axe attack on Monday in which five Israelis were hurt.

It was the biggest crackdown on fundamentalists since Israel arrested hundreds in December 1992 following a wave of killings. Israel deported 415 of the fundamentalist suspects to Lebanon but allowed them to return last December.

The group has threatened to launch five attacks on Israeli targets to avenge the massacre of 30 Moslems by a Jewish settler in Hebron on February 25.

Israeli Delegation Departs Cairo

NC1904205294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—The Israeli delegation led by Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, which participated in the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo recently, left Cairo this evening. The negotiations dealt with the security, legal, and civilian issues.

Israelis Confer Over Jurisdiction Dispute

TA2004072994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] A special discussion was held at the prime minister's bureau this morning on the dispute with the PLO over who will have jurisdiction over Israelis coming to Gaza and Jericho. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Major General Amnon Shahaq and the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser Yo'el Singer, who participated in the deliberations, will return to Cairo at noon. The water discussions apparently concluded successfully. It was decided that Israel will continue supplying water to the settlements in the Gaza Strip.

Water Negotiations Continue in Muscat

Jordan Spurs 'Crisis' in Talks

JN1904201094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Telephone report by correspondent Emile Khaz'al, in Muscat, to Nawwaf al-Nabbari, in the studio, date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Nabbari] Good evening Emile.

[Khaz'al] Good evening Nawwaf.

[Nabbari] Reports from Muscat say last-minute difficulties prevented issuing a final joint statement on the negotiations within the Water Affairs Committee.

[Khaz'al] Yes, there is a crisis in the Water Affairs Committee meetings. A final statement was scheduled to be issued at 1400 today, at 1300 Jerusalem time, but the journalists were asked to gather again at 2000 Muscat time, 1900 Jerusalem time, that is one hour from now to hear the final statement. At the same time, international telephone lines and faxes have been busy for the past four hours between Muscat, Amman, Washington, and Tunis in a bid to find an outlet for the crisis caused by 'Ali al-Gazzawi, Jordan's representative to the Water Affairs Committee, when he rejected the final statement of the water committee's fifth round of talks to protest the continuation of the inspection of ships heading to the Jordanian Port of al-'Aqabah by the U.S-led allies.

Head of the U.S. delegation John Herbst who heads this committee stemming from the multilateral talks, seeks to unanimously approve the final statement, and rejects the Jordanian reservations. The Americans want the Jordanians

to remain an active partner in the multilateral negotiations because it is an important party to the peace process. A short while ago, the Palestinian delegation cabled PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis asking him to intervene with the Jordanian Government to abandon its opposition to the final statement, because this statement includes great gains to the Palestinians, including welcoming the formation the national water authority, and implementation of a number of projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, proposed by the United States, Israel, Austria, and Germany. These projects are able to overcome the water crisis from which the West Bank and Gaza Strip still suffer.

The Omani delegation did not hide its dissatisfaction with the Jordanian position, especially since the Sultanate of Oman considers the convening of the Water Affairs Committee in Muscat a first-class international gain. The evidence on this is the broad international media coverage of the committee meetings in Muscat. They expect here that the fraternal and warm relations between King Husayn and Sultan Qabus would rescue the multilateral negotiations—in other words the prestige of the Omani sultan is being tested. Likewise the sea water desalination center in Muscat is now in danger.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy in Amman, as we knew, is playing a role in convincing the Jordanian Government to approve the final statement, which includes several proposals on implementation of the projects on which it was agreed.

A while ago, the Israeli and Palestinian delegations agreed that even if Jordan continues to oppose the final statement, all joint projects will be implemented, including replacing old water networks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and organizing courses on administering and rationalizing water, as Israel proposed. The Palestinian and Israeli delegations will ask the donor states to finance these projects in spite of Jordan's reservations.

In other words, there is a crisis in the Water Affairs Committee talks in Muscat, contacts are going on, and it is expected to reach a solution to this crisis nearly one hour from now, at 2000 Muscat time, 1900 Jerusalem time, and the final statement is expected then to be announced on the joint projects that will be implemented in the water field.

Israeli Delegate Says All Aims Met

TA2004063094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Interview with Avraham Katz-'Oz, head of the Israeli delegation to the Omani Water Affairs Committee, by Arye Gus, in Muscat on 19 April—recorded]

[Text] [Katz-'Oz] From Israel's viewpoint it was a very successful meeting. We achieved all the aims we set for ourselves. If the next meeting takes place in Bahrain or Kuwait, as expected, another of the five or six main targets we came here with will be met. The Americans also achieved all their aims. I believe we have moved from the stage of general deliberations by experts to that of starting to implement projects in the field. In his concluding remarks, the chairman referred to five projects on which work will now begin. One is an American project dealing with waste waters from small settlements through chemical treatment, and then the reuse of the water. That will be a joint project by two groups—the environment group and the water group.

[Gus] That was, of course, the start of cooperation with Oman.

[Katz-'Oz] Not only that, it also found expression in the chairman's closing remarks. In other words, it is on record that Israel is a member of the steering committee, which will be based in Oman, and that Israel will contribute to desalination projects using solar energy within the framework of the Omani center, which will have a branch in Israel.

[Gus] What is next?

[Katz-'Oz] We should look at it as part of Israel's overall interest in the water group. Together with all the other international elements, we are slowly moving toward an overall solution of the Middle East's water problems, for the Palestinians, Jordanians, and Israelis, outside the existing water distribution framework, through the creation of additional water for the future.

[Gus] Israel did not oppose the establishment of a Palestinian national water authority. What caused the reversal in the Israeli position?

[Katz-'Oz] The Declaration of Principles includes a number of authorities to be set up, including land, water, and military authorities. As part of that framework, we, of course, did not oppose the establishment of the water authority. The bilateral working group will deal with the details of how and when it will be set up.

Paper Offers Version of Golan 'Draft Agreement'

TA1904132194 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Israel and Syria are currently studying a draft agreement over the Golan Heights. This agreement includes the security arrangements for each side. This draft agreement is expected to lead to the signing of a peace treaty between Damascus and Tel Aviv.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will be coming to the region within a few days, will try to bring the viewpoints of Israel and Syria closer by shuttling between the two countries. Christopher will also attend the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Cairo.

AL-MANAR has learned from high-level diplomatic sources that the draft agreement includes clauses about the issues of relations, normalization, and security arrangements. These are:

—Withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Golan Heights will take place in three stages. The first stage includes a redeployment of Israeli forces. This stage will last two years.

—U.S. forces will be stationed in strategic positions in the Golan Heights, and warning stations will be set up there.

—International observers will be deployed [location not specified].

—Settlements in the Golan Heights will be dismantled in stages. Their inhabitants will be compensated if joint projects with the Syrians are not set up.

—Syria will not have the right to dispatch military forces to the Golan Heights but only a police force equipped with personal light weapons.

—An exchange of ambassadors between the two sides will be announced.

—There will be U.S. supervision to monitor Syria's armament.

—Economic agreements between Damascus and Tel Aviv as well as joint economic projects in the Golan Heights will be concluded.

—Washington will undertake to support the agreement and its implementation by providing financial aid to Syria and recognizing Syria's special status in Lebanon.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Briefed on Iraqi Kuwait 'Initiative'

JN1904192794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met here today with Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League.

The Iraqi delegate informed the Arab League secretary general of the text and details of the Iraqi initiative launched by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

League Chief: No Romanian Meeting With Israelis Set

NC1904164194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has denied that he will meet with any Israeli official during his visit to Romania, which will begin tomorrow. He was answering a question from MENA on press reports suggesting that he was likely to meet with the Israeli delegation participating in the annual meeting of the forum on political and democratic prospects in the world that will be held in Bucharest.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Head Calls For More Air Strikes in Bosnia

LD2004002594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2204 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Jeddah, 19 Apr (SPA)—Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has pointed out the the Islamic world's concern and great pain over the massacre of innocent civilians in Gorazde. Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid asserted today, in a statement issued by the ICO, that he was in a continuous contacts with the Bosnian Government and all members of the ICO on the Serbian wanton and horrible onslaught against Gorazde, which the United Nations had declared as a safe haven in Bosnia.

He added that the ICO coordination team at the United Nations was in continuous session in order to coordinate the ICO moves at the UN Security Council.

The ICO secretary general has sent, moreover, a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton, in which he pointed out the Organization's stance and the overwhelming feeling of sadness in the Islamic world in view of the international community's failure to prevent the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Al-Ghabid affirmed that Serbs' unrestrained behavior should justify the increase of air strikes as a means to deter them.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Predicts Agreement at 'End of This Week'

NC1904110794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, 19 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his belief that the current round of Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo will produce an agreement between Israel and the PLO toward the end of this week on the transfer of authority to the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles signed by the two sides in Washington.

In statements to the Tunisian newspaper AL-RA'I AL-'AMM published today, 'Arafat said that the obstacles and hindrances that the Israeli Government created for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles over the past few months is due to its desire to spoil the joy of the Palestinians as they return to a part of their homeland which has been under occupation for over a quarter of a century.

Despite all its procrastination, Yitzhaq Rabin's government is unable to face the consequences of failing to implement the Oslo agreement, 'Arafat stated.

There are four extremist groups [tanzimat mutatarrifah] within the Israeli military who are doing everything they can to obstruct the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. These groups see the Declaration of Principles as being against their interests, 'Arafat said.

'Arafat said that hectic preparations are under way to bring thousands of Palestinian fighters from Tunisia, Yemen, and Sudan to Gaza and Jericho. He added that schools, hospitals, and other public facilities will be built in Jericho which has insufficient supply of such services due to its sparse population.

'Arafat said that 1,300 Palestinian families are expected to arrive in Jericho in the next four months.

Orient House Statement on Israeli 'Warnings'

TA1904153694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] Jerusalem—The Orient House yesterday issued a press statement in which it expressed its concern and disappointment over recent Israeli statements and political maneuvers aimed at driving a wedge between sectors of the Palestinian people.

The statement said that Israeli protests and warnings relating to coordination between Palestinians who support and oppose the peace process and the attempts to discriminate between Palestinian prisoners and set preconditions for their release are totally rejected and are considered Israeli interference in Palestinian internal affairs.

The statement said that the PLO, which is recognized even by Israel as the responsible party representing the Palestinians, has every right to strengthen and enhance relations and ties between various sectors of the Palestinian people regardless of their political or religious affiliations.

The statement added that these efforts by the PLO are an internal Palestinian affair and Israel has no right to interfere in them. We reject any Israeli attempts to intervene in any national dialogue and agreement between Palestinian national movements in the occupied territories.

Six Deportees Arrive at Rafah Border Point

NC1904131294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Rafah, 19 Apr (MENA)—Six Palestinian deportees arrived at the Rafah border crossing point today coming from Libya on their way to the occupied territories in Gaza and Jericho.

An informed source stated that this is the second group of Palestinian deportees, over whom agreement was reached with the Israeli side to repatriate them into the self-administrative areas in accordance with the current negotiations.

Another group is expected to arrive the day after tomorrow, Thursday, including 11 deportees who were residing in Algeria.

Group on 'Rights' To Attack Israelis After Self-Rule

NC2004095094 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 10

[Text] Leaders of an Islamic Palestinian organization have pointed out that the implementation of self-rule will not prevent the organization from exercising its rights to attack Zionist forces and settlers with arms in Palestine. The organization noted that, since the self-rule will be implemented on 2 percent of the Palestinian land only, the leaders seek to draw up a new plan that would enable them to evade any confrontation with the Palestinian police.

Yerin to 'Arafat: Russia Ready To Help With Police

LD1904175494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had a meeting today in Moscow with Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin at the Interior Ministry and briefed him on Palestinian preparations concerning the issue of setting up a Palestinian police and security service. The Russian minister showed his country's preparedness to offer all forms of support, aid, and assistance for the building of the structures of a Palestinian national security service and the setting up of a Palestinian-Russian joint committee for cooperation in national security and police. [passage omitted]

Fatah: Ties With Hamas 'Strategic,' 'Crucial'

TA1904152994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Apr 94 pp 1, 19

[Excerpts] Gaza—Dhiyab al-Lawh, head of Fatah's media and educational department in Gaza, yesterday described the relationship between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as strategic and crucial and something that cannot be disregarded or underestimated. He added that the current circumstances dictate that this relationship be special as well as more solid and harmonious than ever in order to close any loopholes that might arise in the future.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, al-Lawh stressed that Fatah is looking forward to establishing cooperation with all forces present in the Palestinian arena—not only with Hamas—regardless of whether those forces reject or support the accord with Israel.

Al-Lawh downplayed Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' warning against a rapprochement between Fatah and Hamas. He said: When we coordinate with Hamas we do not take into account what the Israelis say because this sort of coordination is an inter-Palestinian affair governed by the Palestinian people's supreme interests and not by the Israelis. On elections for an expected legislative council, al-Lawh said: They will be general elections in which everyone can participate, because it is this elected council that will form the Palestinian national government. [passage omitted]

On the possibility that a security vacuum might be created between the Israeli withdrawal and the national authority's assumption of power, al-Lawh said: Now I cannot discuss the details of the Palestinian security forces' deployment. I can say, however, that the Palestinian leadership has taken all necessary precautions and made all the necessary preparations to provide security and safety for all Palestinians. It will not allow the creation of a security vacuum even for one minute.

Fatah Dissident Explains Program, Attacks 'Arafat

NC1604131694 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 8 Apr 94 p 5

[Interview with Munir al-Maqdah, a leader of the dissident Fatah Movement in south Lebanon, by Najwa Marun; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Marun] How do you view the progress of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Maqdah] Israeli withdrawal? What is happening is a deployment. Rabin was very explicit when he said that "redeployment in Gaza and Jericho by 13 April will need a miracle." We feel that even if the Palestinians enter Gaza and Jericho under the Israeli thumb to form a beachhead for the Arab homeland, this would only last a certain period, not more than a year. In the past we said that Yasir 'Arafat had entered a dark tunnel but today we say that he is entering Hell. He can neither retreat nor advance. As to what is happening in Gaza and Jericho, we are against this return. We have stated our position on the Oslo agreement and what has followed it. All that has happened is treachery. Everyday we hear comments here and there that there is progress in the negotiations or a delay. Why is this so surprising? The Jews do not honor pledges or promises. They will continue to prevaricate for years to come and 'Arafat will continue negotiations but he will not even "smell" Gaza or Jericho. [passage omitted]

[Marun] Are there still contacts between you and those who oppose the peace negotiations in the Arab world?

[Al-Maqdah] Of course. We have recently stepped up these contacts. "Fatah" is large and is everywhere, not only in Beirut's streets, as you can see. Fatah is the Fatah of the armed struggle, of the Katyusha, and of Dalal al-Mughrabi.

[Marun] There is increased talk on the part of the Lebanese regime that the time to apply security measures to everyone is coming.

[Al-Maqdah] The economic and non-economic siege against us continues. Threats to remove or absorb the refugee camps are intensifying, but we continue the struggle. We will not lay down our arms (he said this three times with great determination) until they give us our political rights. We are not demanding anything more than our political rights so we will not be treated like temporary guests, as in Syria. Our rifles are for resistance and for the revolution. They are the rifles of tens of thousands of martyrs, and not for blowing up churches, killing old people and children, or disturbing peaceful towns. We have had enough of them telling us who can do what and when. Our camps have gates and we welcome anyone who visits us. [passage omitted]

[Marun] It is known that Syria holds the "Hizballah" card in Lebanon. Who is holding the "Palestinian" card?

[Al-Maqdah] Our position in the Middle East is bolstered by the firm Syrian stand, which does not go along with everything the United States wants. The Syrians cannot abandon the territories or the principles laid down since 1947, which it has followed to this day, especially under President Hafiz al-Asad. This man does not tire; he is silent and patient; and he knows how to lead the battle in the field. He holds all the Middle East cards in his hand, and this reassures us deeply. There is not a single Arab country on the map that is not frightened, except Syria. Many of the Arab countries have succumbed; only Syria stands alone in the arena despite the pressures and threats to it.

[Marun] Does this mean that Syria is holding your card and that is why you are continuing your opposition?

[Al-Maqdah] I did not ask anyone's permission when I chose to oppose [the Oslo agreement]. I was convinced, as were all those who agreed with me, that the course pursued by 'Arafat would result in Palestine being sold out. I have not met with any Syrian officials to this day. We feel the Syrian stand is sacred. We have said, and I reiterate, that our rifles are at the Syrian army's disposal because time has proved the credibility of this stand, which is honorable for the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

[Marun] How are you living under the siege imposed on you?

[Al-Maqdah] We called on our contacts when all the humanitarian organizations stopped helping us. The "Palestinian Martyrs' Foundation" (an Iranian organization under Tabataba'i) was the only one that supplied us with what we needed. It built the huge "al-Ma'shuq" hospital in the camp and also gave monthly allowances to the martyrs' families. This aid is not limited to the Palestinians in Lebanon but also goes to those in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

[Marun] What do you think 'Arafat's fate will be?

[Al-Maqdah] 'Arafat's traits are unique. Only 'Arafat enjoys strong support from European and reactionary Arab countries, and all the Palestinian people's funds are in his own name. Following the martyrdom of [senior Fatah officials] Abu-al-Hawl, Abu-Jihad, and Abu-Iyad, I believe that if 'Arafat were killed, Arab regimes from Egypt to Algeria would collapse and there would be trouble in Tunisia. All the U.S. desires to protect 'Arafat's life, the great Egyptian support for him, and the major Western financial support for him would suffer from 'Arafat's death and not only with regard to the Gaza-Jericho plan. I believe that his demise is imminent

and our return to Palestine is not that far off. "They see it far off but we see it close," God willing.

[Marun] After what you have just said, if 'Arafat were killed, then you would be the first to be accused.

[Al-Maqdah] This is a great honor for me. We know well the fate of every traitor. 'Arafat's removal means return to the Palestinian home, to collective decisions, to Arab coordination, to the "Fatah" home, and to the Palestinian charter. There will be great and numerous achievements when he disappears. Money will be of no use when the day of reckoning comes. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Leader Attacks 'Reactionary' Arab Regimes

JN1604112694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Under the slogan of "With Bullets We Fight, With Rocks We Resist, and With Gliders We Fly to Palestine" the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] held a speech rally at al-Yarmuk Camp at 1600 today, 15 April, on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the front's establishment.

The rally was attended by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC; Dr. 'Ala'-al-Din 'Abdin, secretary of the Damascus Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Staff Brigadier General Tariq al-Khadra', chief of staff of the Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA]; leaders of the Palestinian Forces Alliance; leaders and representatives of patriotic parties in Lebanon; leaders and representatives of the National Progressive Front in Syria; a number of ranking PLA officers; representatives of Arab and friendly liberation movements; members of the Arab and friendly diplomatic corps; relatives of the martyrs and prisoners; and members of the PFLP-GC's Political Bureau and Central Committee. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril delivered the speech of the Palestinian revolution and the PFLP-GC. He began his speech by asking: How far have we reached and when will we get there? He said: It is the right of our people and the martyrs of our revolution and front to ask: How far have we come, and what have we accomplished throughout this long militant march.

He added: From the very beginning, since 1959, we have laid the first stones of the armed struggle. We have said the road to the liberation of Palestine is difficult and long and the battle against the Zionist enemy is an open one because we are not just fighting a Zionist group, but are fighting colonialism and its agents, represented by reactionary Arab regimes and the renegades and deviants in the PLO leadership.

Jibril touched on the issue of independent Palestinian decisionmaking and said: Those who have called for this want to separate the national cause of the Palestinian people from the pan-Arab cause in order to reach what they have now reached. The deviations that have occurred, the last of which the Oslo Accord, are the natural outcome of this idea, which is aimed at isolating the Palestine question from pan-Arabism. He described those who have called for independent Palestinian decisionmaking as the owners of the separatist veto in the Palestinian community. He said: The real Palestinian decisionmaking is the decisionmaking of the Arab and Islamic nation and the Muslim Arab people. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Jibril dealt with the current political situation and strongly criticized the visit to Oman and Qatar by the Zionist delegation led by Zionist Deputy Foreign Minister [Yosi] Beilin. He said: The enemy's penetration into reactionary Arab regimes is not new. This time, however, it not only aims to achieve public and direct normalization but also to find new cards to pressure the forces hostile to the settlement and to give the Tunis leadership and 'Arafat a new dose of strength now that they have become exposed and fragile before Arab and Palestinian public opinion. He said: The Zionist political course at this stage aims at dissolving the unified Arab position in order to force Syria and Lebanon to accept what Clinton and the others seek.

Ahmad Jibril says: Today, there is a current called peace that has its own way to reach agreements—in Oslo, Washington, Muscat, and tomorrow Bahrain.

Jibril says: The 'Arafat-Rabin agreement has been concluded in two files—security and economy. He noted that the security file calls for stopping and ending the intifadah through 'Arafat's police now that the Zionists have failed in confronting the intifadah. He said that 'Arafat's task is now to go to Gaza and Jericho to foil and destroy the intifadah instead of the Zionists. The Zionists aim at infiltrating the Arab world through the economic file.

Jibril says: If the Zionists and 'Arafat succeed in stopping the intifadah, it means opening the door wide open for Jewish-Zionist immigration into Palestine, reinforcing Zionist settlements in Palestine, and imposing a siege on the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Ahmad Jibril said that the heroic intifadah has aborted the schemes of 'Arafat and Rabin and will continue to resist them.

In his speech Jibril praised the firm and solid stands of Syria, Libya, and Iran.

Algeria

FIS Leader: Power Possible 'Within a Month'

BR1904123994 Paris LE NOUVEL ECONOMISTE in French 15 Apr 94 pp 54-55

[Report on interview with Shaykh Abd el-Baki Saharawi, founder of the FIS, by Nicolas Beau in Paris; date not given: "Algeria's Rulers Will Fall Like Ripened Fruit"]

[Text] Shaykh Saharawi is one of the few dignitaries who can speak on behalf of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], of which he is a founding member. From the Myrha Street Mosque in Paris, he describes the battle plans of "those on the inside" and the FIS' government program.

In the heart of the 18th district, a very Arab and African-looking Parisian area, the Myrha Street Mosque, a warehouse undergoing renovations, is the latest retreat of Shaykh (master) Abd el-Baki Saharawi. A founder of the FIS, this 84-year old preaches every Friday in front of thousands of faithful. Since the imprisonment of the FIS' principal leaders Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj in Algeria in 1990, no one has been really qualified to speak on behalf of the FIS. As fundamentalist guerrillas control at least four Algerian regions (Blida, Bouira, Chlef, Medea), they have their own legitimacy. Outside Algeria, however, Saharawi is one of the few who have been maintaining ties with "those on the inside." "I have been in contact with the mujahidins (freedom fighters)," he simply admits. Whenever he speaks about Chebouti, a member of the Armed Islamic Movement (MIA) and main guerrilla leader, Shaykh Saharawi call him "general Chebouti." "We have had thousands of generals whose titles were illegitimate. Why should we not have our own military ranking system?"

In Paris, people no longer understand the true nature of Algeria's ruling group, which is split between the "eradicationist" wing, which favors all-out repression, and the moderate wing, which advocates dialogue. Shaykh Saharawi is unimpressed by such fine distinctions: "Algeria's rulers went one step toward democracy by holding elections. We won, but they clung to power. It was this caricature of democracy that triggered the crisis: The ruling class had become illegitimate."

Dialogue? What dialogue? Shaykh Saharawi smiles self-righteously: "The Army must return to its barracks; it has nothing to do with civilian life. The ruling group tells us: 'Leave oil, foreign affairs, and the armed forces to us.' But such bartering is over, now, it is a thing of the past..." He dismisses as irrelevant the three-year transitional period the army has been attempting to negotiate with fundamentalist leaders: "We give them three months, and that is it." Why should they wait any longer? Fundamentalists are convinced that they will be in power much sooner, possibly within a month: "Mujahidins have already begun to converge in the Algiers area. The rulers will fall like ripened fruit."

His face suddenly hardening, Shaykh Saharawi pulls out pictures of fundamentalists who have been viciously tortured: faces butchered with chain saws, limbs cut off. Algeria's civil war is now a palpable presence in the quiet mosque. "We will not let them have their way," he says curtly, adding: "You did not understand me; all we ask the Army is to desist. Soldiers have one single purpose: to defend the country..." We insist. Is shared power an option? Could there be a coalition grouping the Arab-Muslim bloc of the FLN [National Liberation Front] and some members of the FFS (Socialist Forces Front) led by Kabylia-born Hocine Ait Ahmed? "Why not?" says Shaykh Saharawi. "But should the people give us an absolute majority, then we shall not share power. When the Right wins in France, it governs alone, and Socialism is swept away."

The French system is often mentioned by Shaykh Saharawi, who was a sergeant in the 7th Regiment of Algerian infantrymen during World War II, before becoming union representative in the factory for FO [Workers' Force]. However, Western logic has had no bearing on his political views: "For us, democracy is only a means to an end, it is most definitely not a value." France has disappointed him, its options are no longer credible. "It took you four centuries to come up with democracy, and not a single voice was heard condemning the interruption in the electoral process." Not that fundamentalists want to extend their jihad to French suburbs. "We do not intend to open a second front in France. Before 1962, things were different, we were fighting our colonizer. Today's events only affect Algerians."

Shaykh Saharawi's political platform is fairly specific: "For us, most issues are already discussed and settled in the Koran. That which God has decreed remains immutable." Sixty km south of Algiers, in the fundamentalist-controlled Blida region, no woman goes about unveiled. God's will? "Of course, wearing the veil is a Koranic recommendation. Woman is unique for man, she must be honored and respected. The prophet wrote this in his Hadith (teachings)." Shaykh Saharawi was especially appalled by recent television programs which allegedly advised women to have sexual intercourse before marrying. "This is pure depravation," says the cleric, adding that "all this cannot be done overnight; there are no plans to impose Islamic law with militiamen and pasdarans, as was the case in Iran. We must re-islamize society little by little."

All parties will be accepted in this Islamic society, provided they are not anti-Islamic. This is the sudden admission that spreads doubt in the mind of the Western listener. For instance, there is not much of a future for Said Saadi's Kabyle party, the RCD (Rally for Culture and Democracy), which has been given the most exposure by the French press because it provides them with a secular (and deceiving) picture of Algeria's society: "Obviously, the RCD will be banned, as it does not represent anyone but itself." Shaykh Saharawi has no mercy for Algerian intellectuals, who are a daily target of terrorists, either: "These are bureaucrats tooting their

own horn; they condemn recent killings, but they did not say a word against the military dictatorship which oppressed the people for 30 years."

Why does this tactful old man, who does not lack a sense of humor, advocate a society that runs totally counter to our beliefs? How can we understand one another? After all, he unequivocally condemned the murders of foreigners, including French nationals. But faced with such questions, Shaykh Saharawi quickly puts an end to the discussion. "I am a Muslim; you in Europe are atheists, laymen, it is only normal that we should not understand one another; we must learn to respect one another."

The whole fundamentalist platform is to be found in a 16-page document written by FIS founders at their organization's inception in 1989. Agriculture will be strongly promoted. "Algeria used to be the granary of the Mediterranean; feeding the people is a priority." Taxes will be replaced by zekat (charity), which is more productive. The economy will be liberal, except from a number of sectors which will remain state-owned (oil, mining). Corruption will be hunted down ruthlessly. Shaykh Saharawi insists: "Ruthlessly." Will they go as far as cutting off a thief's hand, as provided for by the Koran? "When everyone has enough to eat, and no earlier than that, we may consider such a punishment."

What about the burden of Algeria's foreign debt? "When we are in power, we shall see what we can afford to pay..." No question of paying for the servicing of the debt, at any rate: "We paid already at least four times what was owed; the notion of interest is contrary to Islam's precepts." Economics is visibly not Shaykh Saharawi's primary concern. The true program of this simple and pious man is contained in the following Koranic line, which he willingly translates: "God is everlasting, ever-living, and he rules the world."

FIS Leaders See Shari'ah, People as Key to Crisis

PM2004114694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "In statement to AL-MUSLIMUN, Two Salvation Front Leaders Say: Algerian Crisis Can Only Be Resolved by Referring to Islamic Law, People"]

[Text] Jeddah, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In their first press statement to a publication since their release from prison, Ali Djeddi and Abdelkader Khamkham—members of the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] who are authorized by their leader Abassi Madani, currently in Bleda prison, to make statements—have told our sister [London weekly] AL-MUSLIMUN that the only way to resolve the crisis in Algeria is "to refer to the Shari'ah and the people." In an interview to be published by AL-MUSLIMUN in its next issue, they stressed that allowing the people to have their say would result in nothing but what is compatible with the Shari'ah. And that would not conflict with the principle of freedom of human rights advocated by others.

On their proposals on how to make a start, Djeddi and Khamkham said: "We have not yet reached the stage of proposing a solution, and the ground is still not paved. Nevertheless, there is still a big hope."

On the dangers threatening the course of dialogue, they said that "the authorities' deviations must be corrected first, and the other side must correct the deviations in some people's understanding of Islam. That is the only way to stop the bloodshed." On the issuing of certain statements by the two sides advocating violence, Djeddi and Khamkham said: "True, there are criminal actions. But these can only be eliminated by upholding the legitimacy of the Islamic state."

On the fear that some groups may get out of control, even after matters return to normal, they said: "Then any deviation must be denied any legal or polical cover. If we refer to the Shari'ah and the people and open the door of hope, no one is going to separate from us. If it happens, it will not be very serious."

On what was said about their pledge to the authoritics, specifically to President Liamine Zeroual, who met with the seven FIS leaders in prison to contribute to calming the situation, and what was said about their denial of this pledge, Djeddi and Khamkham said: "We did not lie, nor did we deny that pledge in our recent statement."

Egypt

Mubarak on Ties With China, Peace Process

NC2004054294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described ties between Egypt and China as "historic ones" and noted that Egypt was the first Arab and African country to recognize the People's Republic of China.

In an interview with a Chinese media delegation that represented Chinese media organs, President Mubarak said that recent international developments in the Middle East and in east Asia stress the importance of consultations between Egypt and China to have an objective assessment of these developments and of searching for fair solutions acceptable to all parties in order to enhance world peace and security.

President Mubarak stressed that Egyptian-Chinese relations are so unique as to distinguish them from bilateral relations with a number of other friendly countries, explaining that the two countries' cooperation covers many fields of joint activity in the economic, cultural, scientific, and other spheres. He expressed hope that economic cooperation and trade exchange will rise to a still better level.

He said that the great leap made by the Chinese economy and the important achievement of the Egyptian economy will open broad scope and horizons for expanding trade

between the two countries and for increasing their share in world trade to the benefit of the two fraternal peoples.

President Mubarak went on to say in the interview that the achievement of stability in Egypt and the Middle East creates the right climate for giving impetus to the economic growth cycle and the attraction of investments. He stressed that Egypt has succeeded, through a gradual process, in restoring a large part of the Egyptian economy's activities, vitality, and ability to produce, export, and create job opportunities for thousands of young people. He added: The problems are not over yet but the diagnosis was accurate and the treatment was not sudden. Signs of health and strength have started to reappear in Egypt's economy in the fields of industry, agriculture, and reconstruction, and in the improvement in the level of services.

President Mubarak explained that Egypt's policy follows an active diplomacy with the majority of African countries at the political, economic and cultural levels and the exchange of visits and delegations. He added that he is following the development of this policy with great interest. He said: We are contributing, with other countries and international organizations, to the search for solutions to problems that might appear from time to time in order to achieve security and stability in the continent where most peoples are living.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt has firmly abided by the strategy of peace based on justice in order to fulfill the hopes of the region's peoples after a 50-year-long conflict. He said that this strategy began with the historic peace initiative of 1977 that aimed to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and open the door to peaceful coexistence between the Palestinians and Israelis.

He added that Egypt's policy has pursued this course that advocates negotiations and dialogue within the framework of legitimacy and the principles of justice and international law until it saw its persistent efforts crowned with success at the end of 1991, when the peace conference was held in Madrid to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land in return for peace. He said that he regards the Madrid conference as a historic turning point in the peace process and in starting direct negotiations between all the Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian parties.

He stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in the form of the Declaration of Principles last September was another important landmark that brought everybody to the verge of reaching a peaceful and acceptable settlement that places the Palestinian issue at the threshold of a new era where self-rule will be achieved and of transitional measures in preparation for the negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories.

He said that equally important and serious negotiations have been held on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian tracks with Israel and that this shows that everyone is convinced that dialogue and mutual consent and acceptance are the best way to reach an agreement. He added: Another important process also began in parallel with these negotiations, namely the multilateral negotiations on regional cooperation that involves the parties to the conflict and other countries, including China. These talks cover issues of economic development, environment, water, disarmament, and refugees.

He noted that all these are important fields to which the parties and other world countries concerned with the region's stability are paying attention in the hope of attaining security and stability and thus bringing about benefits to all the peoples of the Middle East and the world.

President Mubarak went on to say that Egypt's role, which the political leadership plans and the diplomatic branch implements, has not stopped since the start of the Madrid conference. It even started a long time before then because of Egypt's ties with all regional and international parties to the conflict. He added that Egypt has open channels of communication with all these leaders and constantly receives their leaders and representatives in order to narrow the gap of differences and bring views closer.

He said: Within this context, Egypt has received most of the leaders concerned with the conflict who are participating in the peace process. Talks have also been held in Cairo between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, and the Egyptian capital has been visited by U.S., European, and other delegations to give impetus to the peace process and to reach tangible results as early as possible that will put an end to the cycle of violence and counter violence, expand the circle of support for peace and coexistence in the Middle East, and achieve a dignified and secure life for everyone. He stressed that the achievement of peace in the Middle East will ultimately be a great historic contribution to the establishment of peace and stability in the whole world.

Musa Leaves for China

NC2004103794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1024 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for China today to join the Egyptian delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak during his official visit to China, which is scheduled to begin on 21 April.

Musa Confers With Arab League Official on Peace Talks

NC1904203294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Sa'id Kamal, Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestine affairs. During the meeting, they discussed the current Arab situation, the developments in the peace process, the obstacles hindering the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, and Egypt's efforts to propel the peace process forward.

'Failure' of 'International Politics' in Gorazde Noted

NC1904205594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that arangements are being made to convene an emergency meeting soon of the Islamic Conference Organization to discuss the developments in the city of Gorazde in Bosnia.

'Amr Musa affirmed at a news conference today that what is happening in Gorazde is just another piece of evidence of the failure of international politics to deal with this issue.

AL-AKHBAR Criticizes West, UN Over Bosnia

NC2004080794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—In its commentary today, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR cites a warning by international observers in Sarajevo of possible atrocities done under the policy of ethnic cleansing by the Serbs in Bosnia, who have attacked Goradze's only hospital. Senior Western officials, the paper writes, have done nothing to resolve the situation in Bosnia. Western rhetoric is nothing but a half-hearted attempt to justify a situation that is only as disgraceful as it is untenable, the paper states.

The tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina proves that the United Nations is no improvement on the League of Nations. Actually, it is even more impotent than the defunct league. The United Nations may have 180 members and a charter that endows it with powers the League of Nations never had, but its never assumes these powers except to satisfy the desires of some of the major powers.

Brigadier General, 1 Conscript Killed in Asyut

NC2004102294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Asyut, 20 Apr (MENA)—Brigadier General Shirin 'Ali Fahmi, commander of the security directorate in Asyut, was shot dead in the city center this morning. The brigadier general was leaving his home for work when unidentified men opened fire at him. Conscript Ahmad 'Ali al-Fuli was also killed in the shooting.

One of the terrorists was seriously injured during the shoot-out with the guards. He was transferred to the hospital. Conscript 'Amir Ahmad Husayn was also injured in the attack.

Commanders of the Asyut security directorate and criminal laboratory officials have started investigations into the attack. The search for the criminals has already begun.

Suspected Bank Bomber Arrested in Suez

NC2004105394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1031 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Suez, 20 Apr (MENA)—Security sources in al-Suways Governorate have arrested an extremist suspected of involvement in a recent wave of bank bombings. The man, Ibrahim al-Shatir, was detained during police sweeps in Suez. Other suspects have also been taken into police custody for interrogation.

Security Forces Kill 'Terrorist' in Asyut

NC1904204494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1439 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Asyut, 19 Apr (MENA)—A terrorist was killed in an exchange of gunfire with police forces at the Manfalut bus station in Asyut, Upper Egypt, this afternoon. The terrorist, Mukhtar Husayn Kamil, is accused of killing Police Sergeant Hilal 'Ali Ibrahim. The security agencies earlier learned from the terrorist's companions, who had recently surrendered and repented, that Kamil frequented the Manfalut bus station. When the terrorist felt that the police force were tightening the noose around him, he fired at the policemen. The police advised him to stop firing but he continued to fire indiscriminantly. The policemen were forced to return the fire, killing him instantly. He had in his possession a pistol stolen from a policeman. He was from from al-Qusiyah and used Manfalut as a base for his terrorist acts. He hid in Manfalut after assassinating Hilal 'Ali Ibrahim last year. The Manfalut Prosecution Office has been notified to begin investigations under the supervision of Counsellor Muhammad Mursi Muhammad 'Ali, public attorney in the prosecution office of north Asyut.

Four 'Extremists' Surrender in Asyut

NC1904210394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Asyut, 19 Apr (MENA)—Four members of terrorist groups have declared their repentance and decided to return to the right path after having been misled by extremist leaders. They declared their acceptance of the judicial verdicts in the cases in which they were implicated. Stating this, Asyut Governor Samih al-Sa'id added that the four extremists surrendered to the popular departments in the governorate today of their own volition and were handed over to the competent security agencies.

Investigations Into al-Jihad Operations Detailed

NC1904203394 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 8

[Report by Jamal 'Abd-al-Rahim]

[Excerpt] The interrogation of members of the al-Jihad Organization's military wing has disclosed that they recently returned to Egypt from abroad, where they

received training in all types of weapons, the preparation and manufacture of bombs and explosives, and how to use them to carry out terrorist operations against important public figures and senior security officials.

The investigations also revealed that 'Adil 'Awad Siyam, the terrorist who was killed in a fight with policemen on al-Bahr al-A'zam street in al-Munib on 4 April, had been assigned by fugitive terrorist Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the al-Jihad Organization, to lead the organization's military wing and to act as coordinator between the terrorist leaders abroad and in Egypt. Dr. al-Zawahiri supplied him with the money to buy weapons and ammunition in order to carry out terrorist operations. Organization members were to have assassinated UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali during his visit to Egypt, but failed due to a change in his route. They had also planned to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

The interrogation of al-Jihad's military wing members also indicated that terrorist Siyam had planned the aborted attempt on the life of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. For that operation, he rented a house for terrorists Diya'-al-Din Mahmud Hafiz, Nazih Subhi Rashid, Ahmad Faruq, and Muhammad Rashad 'Abd-al-Hamid in the Kafr al-Manfa area in al-Haram. He then persuaded terrorist Diya'-al-Din Hafiz to carry out the suicide mission, while he personally watched the interior minister's motorcade.

Members of the organization, including terrorist Muhammad 'Abd- al-'Alim Khalifah, brother-in-law of terrorist 'Adil 'Awad, admitted to killing witness Sayyid Ahmad Abu-Yahya and three others at his car showroom in Shibin al-Qanatir on 4 February. He was murdered for reporting to the police on their terrorist colleague Sayyid Salah. Salah was sentenced to death in connection with the assassination attempt of Prime Minister Dr.'Atif Sidqi. They also admitted to placing an explosive device at al-Jazirah Youth Center in 1993 so it would detonate during a training course of State Security Intelligence officers, and to killing their dissident colleague 'Adil Anwar in Saray al-Qubbah area.

The investigations revealed that terrorist Siyam had been using seven stolen cars to move around in and to pass instructions to organization members. A report by the criminal laboratory identified the weapons found in possession of the terrorists as those used in the Shibin al-Qanatir terrorist operation, in which Sayyid Abu-Yahya and three others were killed and a police officer, who chanced to be in the showroom, was injured. The investigations showed that terrorist 'Adil Siyam had received funds from abroad, for a receipt from a foreign currency transfer in Italy was found. The organization members used to disguise themselves in police, armed forces, and municipality workers' uniforms to place the explosive devices in strategic areas. The investigations revealed that terrorist 'Adil Siyam and his brother-in-law Muhammad Khalifah had trained the terrorists how to prepare explosives. The organization members led prosecutors to nine dens in al-Basatin, al-Munib, al-Qalubiyah, where weapons and ammunition had been stored, as well as an underground tunnel which led to Bilbays in al- Sharqiyah Governorate. [passage omitted]

Plans To Kidnap Figures Reported

NC1904122794 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 8

[Text] It has been learned that members of the al-Jihad Organization's military wing have constructed secret underground tunnels in al-Sharqiyah Governorate in which they built a number of cells.

According to information, the organization planned to kidnap some figures and lock them up in these cells as hostages to put pressure on officials to meet their criminal demands. AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that the tunnels were discovered during a search for terrorists. Security men found a big water tank. When they removed it, they were surprised to find an entrance that leads to the underground tunnels.

Jobs To Be Provided to 'Repentant' Terrorists

NC2004085894 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] A decision has been made to provide every repentant terrorist with a job. In fact, 25 repentant terrorists have been given jobs in Asyut, after it became evident that they were qualified and had university or high school diplomas that they had earned years ago.

Dr. Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the National Democratic Party, made this statement. He also added that the party leaders in Asyut and Asyut Governor Samih Sa'id have been instructed to provide jobs immediately for repentant terrorists in the governorates.

Artists' Antiterrorism Role Criticized

NC1504153594 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Apr 94 p 12

[Column by Muhammad al-Ghazali: "This Is Our Religion"]

[Text] We are fighting on two fronts: That of the ungrateful toward Islam and that of the unlearned in Islam. Each one is worse than the other. We want to present genuine Islam, adding nothing and omitting nothing. Adding means more human heresy and superstition and omitting means deleting some elements of the revelation that might inhibit its desired impact and give heretic tendencies the upper hand over correct guidance. At any rate, we will not move an inch from that stance. Unsound piety can only be rectified by authentic piety, and exceeding the bounds and wastefulness can only be cured by moderation.

The ungrateful can sometimes pursue detestable courses; they might assail guides with their sharp tongues. Abu-Nuwas [Abbasid poet] was a drunk. When a cleric advised him to abandon this habit, he said: Tell him who claims to be knowledgeable that he learned something and missed a lot. Ignorant as he was, Abu-Nuwas did not say that God permitted drinking or that the Koran has not prohibited drinking, as a contemporary man of law has claimed. This saying is very true of that man of law: I was one of Satan's soldiers. When I climbed up in status, Satan became one of my soldiers.

More surprising is that such people are being called to cure terrorism and deviousness. I saw on television images of individual and couple dancing; these images are damned by chaste and straight people. But the actors and actresses taking part in these animal-like festivals have been recruited in a campaign against the veil and descent clothing using the theory that women who display their charms are ethical while others who wear long dresses are evil.

Can terrorism be fought by actors and actresses? Since when does the leadership of social reform grow in such surroundings? Where are the thinkers, mentors, and men of knowledge? The fire of temptation cannot be extinguished this way; it glows further just like fire does when fed with oil.

The masses were enraged when these artists talked about religion, although they were ignorant about its teachings. This is not surprising, since man cannot give what he does not have. It is ridiculous that his excellency "Sayyid, the Boy Servant" [reference to comedian 'Adil Imam, whose film "The Terrorist" is showing in Cairo] should be called to fight terrorism and assist the police in their difficult task.

If the culture of some religious people is faulty, it is established scholars, and not farcical artists, who can correct it. If Charlie Chaplin of England managed with his wit and movements to make people laugh, could this actor preclude the role of literature, philosophy, religion, and major institutions in guarding rights and welfare and enhancing the nation's message?

Integrated Policy Against Terrorism Urged

NC1504190194 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Apr 94 pp 1, 3

["Calmly" column by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi']

[Excerpts] The television interview with 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi, one of the former leaders of the al-Shawqiyun Group, has provided a good example of the ideology and methods used by the terrorist organizations. These organizations are raising the banners of religion falsely to achieve their true goals, which are the domination and control of the people's destinies to seize power by force.

The corruption exercised by these groups through Islamic legal rulings on murder, plunder, and seizure of unbelievers' property to finance their operations [istihlal] represents the height of offense against religion, country, law, and public order unpracticed by any gangster group in our country before. [passage omitted]

Frankly and objectively, I say that the terrorist elements of these new generations are a bad product of the gap between the Egyptian media (press and audio-visual) and these youths, their aspirations, hopes, and real problems. Most of our media concentrates on what is happening in greater Cairo and Alexandria and the problems that exist there, without giving much attention to the big vacuum in which the new generations live and to the need to create bridges of confidence and dialogue between these generations and our scholars, thinkers, intellectuals, media men, and even politicians and political parties whose role has been limited to political contests in the press. Not much effort has been made to fill the dreadful ideological vacuum that exists among these generations. This vacuum is also the result of the defect in the educational system. This system requires real revision because it is molding unopen minds that do not debate or discuss ideas or positions in a rational and critical manner that respects the opinion of others.

Behind this dreadful ideological vacuum in which Muslim legal rulings on murder, terrorism, and the seizure of unbelievers' property flourish stands the absence of rational, tolerant, religious thinking, which has been represented for many decades by the al-Azhar and its scholars. [passage omitted]

We are facing an illness that requires the efforts of all of our scholars and researchers to diagnose the causes of these dangerous manifestations. [passage omitted]

I think that placing the responsibility for dealing with terrorist activity on the shoulders of the security services alone is extremely unfair to them, because everyone is called upon to do their part in this confrontation. A media role is urgently needed to confront the extremist terrorist ideology and its sources, which deviate from the principles of religion and the consensus of jurisprudence. There is an important and required role for the cultural services in this confrontation. [passage omitted]

According to all indications, there is a need for integration between the policies of education, culture, and information to make it easier for the police forces to carry out their duty with competence and efficiency. [passage omitted]

'Embarrassing' Downing of U.S. Helicopters Viewed

NC2004105994 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Apr 94 p 14

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] What happened yesterday over the regions that are under international protection in northern Iraq is

very embarrassing for the United States, which is trying to appear to the whole world as the sole holder of all the keys to modern technology.

Is it possible that U.S. fighter planes downed U.S. helicopters?

Frankly, had such an incident taken place in a Third World country, the United States would have screamed and shouted, cried and mourned over the souls of the victims who are worthless and priceless.

If the catastrophe had been the fault of a state other than the United States, the world would have been up in arms. Washington would have called for a Security Council meeting and demanded the international community's intervention to punish the wrongdoer, even if the mistake had been committed unintentionally.

There are numerous examples of this kind of U.S. behavior. However, because the United States is the one who made the mistake, the issue will not go beyond forming a committee that will look into the circumstances and justifications of the incident.

Of course, Britain also reacted calmly to the catastrophe, despite the fact that it lost two of its officers working with the UN forces. But it is a friendship that cannot be forfeited very easily. To put it another way, Britain was afraid of U.S. anger if it protested the incident and accused the United States of negligence.

On the other hand, Iraq quickly issued a statement in which it denied involvement in the incident so that it could avert further sanctions that might have been imposed on its people, but this time for no reason.

At any rate, with every passing day there is further evidence that the aura with which the United States surrounds itself, thanks to its famous and distinctive media, does not agree with reality. Once again I repeat that had the incident been caused by any other country, demonstrations would have erupted in the whole world condemning the backward people who fail to use the inventions of our age and do not appreciate the value of a life.

Paper Comments on Iraq's 'Surprise' Decision on Kuwait

NC1904070494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR writes that Iraq's surprise decision not to consider Kuwait as its 19th province raises many questions and even doubts. In a commentary in its Tuesday edition, the paper says that many observers think that this decision is not prompted by a desire to return to what is right nor does it mean that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has repented. The decision has another purpose. It shows the failure of the Iraqi regime's repeated attempts to end the UN sanctions that have been in effect since the crime of the invasion of Kuwait. It also reflects the Iraqi regime's desire to bring about the release of its frozen assets in some world countries and resume the exportation of Iraqi oil.

AL-AKHBAR concludes by saying that irrespective of the Baghdad regime's intentions in making this surprise announcement regarding its attitude to Kuwait, the departure of Saddam Husayn remains the basic condition for the resumption of normal relations with Iraq by the majority of the Arab world.

'Urgent' Arab Action Sought To Help Iraqi People

NC1804124194 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Apr 94 p 9

[Article by Ihsan Bakr: "Reconciliation...Before Peace"]

[Excerpts] Peace with Israel is closer at hand than reconciliation between the Arab capitals. The achievement of Arab-Israeli reconciliation is closer than inter-Arab reconciliation, despite four destructive wars, the occupation of five Arab countries, and a 45-year old enmity.

This is the bitter truth we are living with. This is the painful Arab situation we are experiencing despite all the sincere efforts made by several Arab capitals and the persistent endeavors of the Arab League secretary general, which no one can ignore.

The results of the 101st Arab League Foreign Ministers Council session and all the statements issued by the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] after concluding their meetings in Riyadh indicate very clearly that Arab reconciliation has become difficult to achieve. Even clearing the Arab atmosphere as a prelude for achieving reconciliation will remain a mere "pan-Arab hope" that needs frankness, face-to-face meetings, and bold and responsible political decisions with which to face the regional and international changes. [passage omitted]

The GCC foreign ministers' final statement—which was very tough on Iraq—means that the Gulf wound has not yet healed. The statement also put an end to reports about differences and disagreements in the Gulf countries' stance on the Baghdad government. It is true that the way Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman are dealing with Baghdad is unique. It is also true that the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly called for clearing the Arab atmosphere. But the six Gulf countries' unanimous approval of their final statement means that there has been no change toward the Iraqi Government. [passage omitted]

In a press statement by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal—and we note here the rarity of the Saudi official's statements—he stressed that the GCC has one single objective: Iraq should implement all UN resolutions. He added that the essence of these resolutions is the recognition of Kuwait. He reiterated the need to

maintain Iraq's unity and sovereignty over all its territories and also expressed the GCC countries' sympathy for the Iraqi people.

The amazing thing is that some of the major countries that are permanent members of the Security Council—Russia, China, and France—have declared that Iraq has made progress in implementing Security Council Resolution 687. Iraq has officially announced its acceptance of this resolution. This declaration came at the same time that the six Gulf states stressed that the Iraqi regime continues to pose a threat to their security and stability. The GCC countries then welcomed the continued imposition of the embargo on Iraq!

No one in the world doubts that the Iraqi regime is responsible for the Iraqi people's sufferings now because of its invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. All the reports coming from Baghdad speak about the tragedies that the Iraqi Arab people are facing and the food, medicine, and children's milk shortages.

No one disagrees with the fact that the international treatment of the Gulf crisis was characterized by extreme arbitrariness and by U.S. determination to destroy everything on Iraq's territory. Iraq withdrew from Kuwait, complied with the Security Council resolutions, and then complied with the actions to dismantle its army and put an end to its military strength. But to continue the international boycott and the constant attempt to split Iraq's territories and people is unacceptable to any conscience or to any Arab. It appears that the issue is not one of implementing the international resolutions but a plot to starve the Iraqi people and make that country submit. The United States is unsheathing its sword and using its pressures against Iraq, but it ignores or forgets that Israel has the nuclear power, is daily disregarding the UN resolutions, and is violating human rights. Still the United States does not act.

The U.S. President is upset when he learns that the Iraqi people continue to be an asset to the Arab nation despite the tribulations and horrors it has gone through. The U.S. President's conscience feels no pain when the reports coming from Baghdad tell him that the Iraqi capital's hospitals are suffering from acute shortages of medicine and the absence of anesthetic necessary for surgery.

It is not a defense of Saddam Husayn or his regime but a defense of a fraternal Arab people, against whom plots are being hatched in the name of international legitimacy while this legitimacy disregards all that is happening inside the occupied Arab territories and the organized killing of the Bosnian people.

The current situation requires an urgent and responsible Arab action to save a fraternal people, clear the Arab atmosphere, and achieve a comprehensive reconciliation. Reconciliation here is not for the sake of this or that regime but is a pan-Arab necessity imposed by the challenges facing the nation. If the danger is threatening the Iraqi state's unity and pan-Arab security, then no one in the region can save himself even if he seeks the help of the major countries' armies. The Arab world's primary and last guarantee stems from within this world, from its peoples and regimes. We have no course other than solidarity so that the torrent does not sweep over us all. If it does, then neither the oil nor the money will help us protect the nation's identity and national independence.

Ambassador, Embassy Staff Return From Rwanda

NC2004054894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2306 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—The six members of the Egyptian Embassy staff in Rwanda returned to Cairo this evening headed by Ambassador Samih Darwish on an Egyptian plane coming from Nairobi.

The Egyptian Embassy has temporarily closed down in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, after the civil war there intensified between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes following the deaths of the Rwandan and Burundian presidents in the airplane incident on 6 April. [passage omitted]

Military Exercise Detailed; Tantawi Comments

NC1804122694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Suez, 18 Apr (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, has stressed the importance of continuous military training to upgrade the Armed Forces' combat readiness.

In remarks made while attending the military exercise "Taysir 13" east of the Suez Canal today, Tantawi praised the skill of the 3d Field Army and noted the combat ability of the Egyptian soldier.

He called for continuing tough training for small and medium-size units and for providing the necessary care for soldiers to enable them to achieve a high level of physical and technical competence and to always be ready to defend Egypt.

He said the state and the people are securing modern and advanced equipment for the Army to enable it to perform its tasks honorably.

In the exercise, a mechanized infantry unit of the 3d Army crushes an enemy attack in a mountainous region. The unit stops the advance of enemy forces, destroys them, restores defensive positions, and launches a counterattack.

The exercise begins with enemy warplanes attacking the positions of the mechanized infantry unit. The Air Force then intervenes, confronting enemy planes and forcing them to flee.

Reconnaissance units start to gather military information on the movements of the two sides.

Ground defenses, helicopters, and vehicles equipped with antitank missiles confront and destroy the attacking enemy tanks. Our forces use mine fields and landslides to hinder the enemy advance. Here the competence of the Egyptian antitank missile "al-Ahram" appears. The missile is mounted on light military vehicles and can destroy enemy tanks far away.

In the next phase of "Taysir 13," the 3d Army tanks launch a counterattack against enemy positions, inflicting heavy losses on them. Electronic war techniques, represented by jamming and obstruction, are used.

Antichemical-warfare units carry out surveys to make sure the enemy used no chemical weapons in the battle.

The exercise is part of a major training plan currently being implemented by the 3d Field Army using live ammunition; it coincides with the anniversary of the return of dear Sinai to Egypt.

Mechanized infantry, tank, helicopter, reconnaissance, chemical warfare, and Air Force units took part in the exercise.

The drill seeks to highlight the ability of commanders to make decisions in emergencies and control their forces during the battle. It also aims to unify the method of action used by the Armed Forces branches in mountainous regions and to train tank crews working in the mountains.

Public Prosecutor Replies to Press Syndicate

NC2004054994 Cairo MENA in English 2240 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 19 (MENA)—Public Prosecutor Raja' al-'Arabi today asserted the prosecution's abidance by doing its role in accordance with legitimacy and supremacy of law without ignoring guarantees enjoyed by individuals.

This came in a message he sent to the Press Syndicate in reply to a note he received of late from Ibrahim Nafi', chairman of the Press Syndicate, requesting the prosecution's interference to protect guarantees of journalists who were arrested recently.

The Press Syndicate Board charged that the prosecution had violated such guarantees recently.

"All the prosecution members are fully aware, and have proper understanding, of all rulings and laws, including the authority of the press and criminal procedures," asserted the chief prosecutor.

"The prosecution is keen on implementing laws out of its responsibility and duties without the need for anyone to draw its attention to that," he affirmed.

Poll Probes View of Arab-Israeli Relations

NC1504202294

[Editorial Report] Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic on 9 April carries on its front page a 500-word summary of the results of a public opinion poll commissioned by AKHBAR AL-YAWM and carried out by the Administrative Development Center of Alexandria University's Commerce College. The poll deals with Egypt's regional policy, particularly its relations with Israel following the Cold War.

On pages 3 through 6 the paper carries a 3,000-word report, illustrated with graphics, listing the questions and answers in the poll. On page 4 the paper writes:

"This is the second time—the first was during the vote on a third presidential term—that the public opinion unit of the Administrative Development Center in the Commerce College of Alexandria University and AKHBAR AL-YAWM has cooperated in exploring public views on the strategy that Egypt should follow in light of new developments taking place during a critical juncture in the history of the Middle East."

The paper notes that the poll was designed to shed light on the public response to an article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah published on 26 January 1994 under the headline "Welcome to Challenge." The article was followed by a debate in the same paper among writers assessing the implications of the peace process. Sa'dah, the paper recalls, sees a "challenge" in which the country has to choose among the following courses:

"1. Holding on to the cold peace with Israel until a comprehensive, just, and acceptable peace is achieved in the Arab region.

"2. Turning the cold peace into a warm one and fully and promptly normalizing political and economic relations between Egypt and Israel, in view of the urgency with which others are moving to normalize their relations with Israel in one form or another.

"3. [Selecting a course lying within] the spectrum defined by the two above-mentioned options."

The pollsters, the paper explains, sent a three-part questionnaire to "a random sampling of 5,000 individuals from various parts of the country."

To a question in part one of the questionnaire, 4,879 respondents, or 98 percent, say they read Sa'dah's article. Some 3,335 respondents, or 81 percent, say they agree with Sa'dah's call for "a new thinking in Egypt's relations with the countries in the region, including Israel."

To questions in part two of the questionnaire, 3,885 respondents, or 94 percent, say they are "ready to get over the scars of Arab-Israeli relations and transcend the pain of the war." Those who are not ready to forget the past number 230, or 6 percent.

Those who believe that "transforming relations between Egypt and Israel into warm cooperation is conditional on the signing by all parties of the peace agreements" number 3,250. Those who do not see a need for such a condition to be made number 865. [percentages not given]

Some 3,916 respondents, or 95 percent, think that "Egypt's relations, communications, and cooperation with the countries of the region without exception should be conducted publicly." Those who do not share this belief number 199, or 5 percent.

Agreeing that "Israel's repeated aggression reflects negatively on relations among the countries of the region" are 3,257 respondents, while 858 disagree. [percentages not given]

Some 3,315 respondents, or 81 percent, believe that "the emergence of a Palestinian entity in accordance with the recent agreement will have a positive effect on relations within the region," while 800, or 19 percent, disagree.

Those who believe that Egypt should "wait for the features of the new international order to take clear shape before it changes its current policy of maintaining a 'cold peace' with Israel" number 261, while 3,845 respondents think that Egypt should not wait for this to happen. [percentages not given]

Disagreeing with Menachem Begin's view that "peace could be achieved with Jewish brains and Arab money" are 3,969 respondents, or 96 percent. Some 146 respondents, or 4 percent, agree with Begin.

Some 688 respondents, or 17 percent, think that Israel "should disavow its 'from the Nile to the Euphrates' claim as a condition for cooperation and joint efforts." Those who see no need for Israel to disavow such a claim number 3,427, or 83 percent.

Agreeing that "the Egyptian role in building a new regional peace and security system will diminish" are 154 respondents, while 3961 do not believe in a diminished Egyptian regional role. [percentages not given]

Those who believe that Egypt "has dealt efficiently with the challenges of peace so far" number 3,416, or 83 percent.

Some 3,586 respondents "believe they have stopped classifying countries in the region into foes and friends," while 529 still adhere to this categorization. [percentages not given]

In the third part of the questionnaire, the respondents are asked the question: "What are the issues that you believe the important dialogue [commentaries written by intellectuals in response to Sa'dah's article] has left out?" The respondents cite the following issues:

"1. The ability of the leaderships in the region to understand the new developments and deal with them intelligently and prudently.

"2. The water problem.

"3. Disarmament and regional mutual security arrangements.

"4. GATT and its effect on Egypt and the region and the interaction of economic relations in the area."

Libya

Minister Comments on Solidarity With Iraq

JN1604161194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (INA)—Tahir al-Juhaymi, Libyan minister of economy and finance, has called on Arab countries to release Iraq's frozen assets from their banks in order to confront the unfair embargo imposed by an unjust American will.

Al-Juhaymi made a press statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Cairo on the periphery of a meeting held by Arab financial institutions. He said no law in the world allows any force to confiscate and freeze other countries' assets, for any reason. This represents a strong blow to international laws and norms.

He described the embargo imposed by the United States and its allies on Iraq, and the freezing of Iraq's assets, as a negative turning point in the history of international relations and the United Nations. This is a full-blown confrontation between the correct and progressive forces in the world and the incorrect and colonialist forces on another.

He said the embargo on the Iraqi and Libyan people and the continuous killing and starving of their sons before the eyes of the world represents the end of international legitimacy and the fall of all slogans raised by Western countries and America about human rights, democracy, and the so-called new world order.

The Libyan economics minister reiterated his country's total solidarity with the people and Government of Iraq in waging the fateful battle and their efforts to foil the embargo. He said he is confident that Iraqi and Libyan victory in the battle will inevitably be achieved.

Movement for Change, Reform Leader Interviewed

PM1904150094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Apr 94 p4

[Report on interview with Burayk Suwaysi, official spokesman of the Libyan Movement for Change and Reform, by Bisharah Shirbil in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] London—Burayk Suwaysi, official spokesman of the Libyan Movement for Change and Reform [LMCR], has denied that his movement is holding any dialogue with the Libyan regime. He also denied that the question of dialogue was one of the causes of the movement's split from the National Front

for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] at the beginning of the month of Ramadan. He stressed that the movement wanted "a peaceful solution to the Libayn question" but that did not mean "forfeiting our right to use all legitimate means, including force, for the salvation of our country."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Suwaysi said that the movement's constitutent assembly would be held within months to approve the organizational, ideological, and political structure and to elect a leadership. [passage omitted]

Asked about the movement's willingness for dialogue, Suwaysi said: "I say again that when the prerequisites are fulfilled and the principles are clear, especially al-Qadhdhafi's recognition of the patriotic opposition and his expression of willingness to respond to the legitimate national demands of the Libyan people and true recourse to the people.... If all that happens, then it would be another matter.

"We want a peaceful solution to the Libyan question, a solution that would spare our country more conflict and bloodshed and spare our people more difficulty, but that certainly does not mean forfeiting our right to struggle and use all legitimate means, including force, for the salvation of our country." [passage omitted]

On the question of the Libyan National Army joining the movement and its announcement that it would remain open to all Libyans, and the conflict that that would create with sound organized work, Suwaysi said: "Not at all. There is no conflict. The Libyan National Army is an integral part of the movement and it is open to all Libyans interested in military struggle and not necessarily in joining the ideological and political organization."

Asked about the leadership of the new organization, Suwaysi said that "the present leadership is a provisional leadership; we have called it the Constituent Committee and thought it best not to divulge the names of its members, but it consists of the brothers who took the initial practical steps of crystallizing the idea of forming the organization." [passage omitted]

On the question of unification of the opposition factions, Suwaysi emphasized that the movement "seeks cooperation and coordination with all patriotic forces and opposition factions to fulfill our people's demands because the current challenge in Libya requires the pooling of the efforts of all patriotic parties, factions, and individuals." [passage omitted]

On the question of who finances the new movement, Suwaysi said: "We will rely on the Libyan national capabilities and resources inside and outside the homeland. All the organization's programs and activities will be kept within the limits of the national intrinsic capabilities out of faith in the principle of an independent national will free from foreign and external pressures." [passage omitted]

On relations with the United States, Suwaysi believes that "they will be the same as relations with any other state, the sole aim being to serve the national cause without undermining the Libyan people's interests and the independence of national decisionmaking." [passage omitted]

Sudan

Ministry Seeking 'More Determined Stance' Toward Serbs

EA1904200394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today issued a statement on the progress of events in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the tyrannical Serbian conquest there.

The statement stressed that Sudan, proceeding from its conviction to respect human rights and respect international laws and resolutions, did not wish to see a deterioration in terms of hostilities in that region. It also does not wish to see the mounting suffering inflicted on the patient and steadfast Bosnian people on a daily basis, or the obstinacy of the Serbian forces, which exploit the UN Security Council's resolutions as an umbrella under which to commit further atrocities and massacres.

The statement once again called on the international community to discharge its responsibilities towards a people suffering the worst fate ever to befall any people throughout the course of history. The Foreign Ministry statement called on the international community and the governments of the Arab and Islamic states and peace-loving governments, to adopt a more determined stance towards the Serbian aggressors so as to rescue what is left of the Serbian people under attack.

Garang's Adviser Details Hurdles in Aid Distribution

NC1904185994 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 13 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] Answering questions by AL-AHALI, Dr. Mansur Khalid, political adviser to the southern commander John Garang, said that the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] has not asked for the intervention of foreign armies in Sudan. However, he said that there are logistical problems hindering the transport of relief aid, particularly in the areas where fighting is raging. There is a need for guarantees to provide supplies to these areas. Sudan is not Somalia, he said, but it does not differ from Bosnia or Cambodia. A foreign presence to guarantee these humanitarian matters could be provided through the OAU or the United Nations. He said: We cannot request this of the Arab League because it deals with Sudan as if it were not part of the Arab nation.

Khalid said that Egypt is in constant contact with all Sudanese parties and that it has never ceased its contacts. He noted that the Egyptian Government can play

an effective role in the Sudanese problem on the regional and African levels in its capacity as an Arab country and chairman of the OAU.

Khalid said that the talk about relations between the SPLM and Israel does not deserve a reply. He said that the SPLM does not need advisers from Israel or any other country, noting that Israel has no experience in guerrilla warfare. He said that the Sudanese Government's allegation that the SPLM has relations with Israel is meaningless and untrue. It says this when everyone is seeking Israel's favor. He noted that the parties with which the SPLM cooperate are well known and are mostly African. John Garang, he said, completed a guerrilla course as a Sudanese Army soldier while on scholarship in the United States.

Kuwait

Assembly Speaker Rejects Iraqi Assembly Claims

LD1904154294 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report on address by Assembly speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun at the National Assembly in Kuwait on 19 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] The National Assembly, chaired by its speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, held its regular session this morning. The assembly meeting opened with an address by the speaker in which he discussed claims by the president of the so-called Iraqi National Assembly that the Baghdad regime is not holding any Kuwaiti prisoners, hostages or others, and his invitation to a delegation from Kuwait's National Assembly to visit Iraq to verify this. The following is a recording of the speaker's address:

[Al-Sa'dun] To begin with, this is not the first time an Iraqi official has made such statements; they have said this on many occasions. Similar statements were made by the foreign minister and other officials. We did not take any notice of them and did not try to respond to them because we felt that they did not deserve answering. However, the statement made this time by the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, inviting members of the Kuwaiti National Assembly to discuss some issues, as he put it, to serve what he described as the pan-Arab cause, the interests of both sides, in order to achieve stability and put an end to [word indistinct], compels us to respond.

What also makes us respond to this statement is his belief—as came across clearly in the text of his interview with the INA - that statements of this kind made by various officials have been concealed from the Kuwaiti Parliament by the Kuwaiti Government. Because of this, it is necessary to let the speaker of the Iraqi National Assemby and the Iraqi regime know the truth of the position of the Kuwaiti people, all the Kuwaiti people—government, people, and parliament.

The position of the Kuwaiti people was not taken today, but during the darkest of circumstances. It was taken when Kuwait was occupied, when there were disputes. Yes, let him hear, there were disputes between us on how to handle matters, but there were no differences on two issues; on the liberation of Kuwait when it was occupied and who should govern Kuwait. Let him know that clearly. [passage omitted]

The stance of the Kuwaiti people toward the Iraqi regime, its occupation, and its practices was clear. Despite all that the Kuwaiti people faced then, not only at the hands of the Iraqi regime and its army but also at the hands of some of the people [as heard], our people managed to rise above all their wounds. Our people managed then, at a people's conference held under the patronage of his highness the amir and the chairmanship of his highness the heir apparent, at which representatives of all sections of Kuwaiti society were present— our people managed at that conference to rise above all their wounds and adopt, with a clearly defined stance, Resolution 15 [words indistinct] which while condemning the practices of the Iraqi regime made it clear that the Kuwaiti people do not harbor any malice or grudge against the Iraqi people. Indeed, we said in Resolution 15 that part of the suffering faced by the Iraqi people or even all the suffering faced by the Iraqi people was caused by the Iraqi regime itself.

It is astonishing to hear what the Iraqi regime, or the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, had to say when he invited a delegation from the Kuwaiti National Assembly to hold talks without involving the Kuwaiti Government, as if there were a government on one side and a National Assembly on the other. We may have our differences but in the face of these matters we are one side: the government, the National Assembly, and the system of government in Kuwait all stand on the same side. This is what we said then. [applause] [passage omitted]

What does he want from such a meeting? His objective—as he said openly—is to enable a delegation from the Kuwaiti National Assembly, whom they would invite, to acquaint themselves with all the facts that prove that they have no Kuwaiti prisoners. The result is already known, as far as he [as heard] is concerned: There are no prisoners. This is also aimed at helping the Iraqis to achieve their goals in their attempts to mislead the international community when they ask for a lifting of the blockade, arguing that they have responded to all the resolutions of the international community.

We challenge—I personally challenge—the chairman of the Iraqi National Assembly to present to the international community evidence that Iraq has responded and accepted commitment to all the resolutions of the international community. Perhaps continuous pressure from the international community would make Iraq submit now. As a result of pressure it has indeed submitted to all that concerns the search for weapons. It has responded and carried out articles [words indistinct] and responded and implemented article [word indistinct]. But talk about [words indistinct], who is to blame for this? It is the Iraqi regime itself that is to blame, because, first, the boycott resolutions did not cover food or medicine; second, in addition to all [words indistinct] the international community allowed the Iraqi regime to export some of its oil so long as it does not exceed [words indistinct]. For this reason, Mr. Speaker [as heard], I [word indistinct] for these calls and illusions of the Iraqi regime or the chairman of the so-called Iraqi National Assembly not to continue. We say it here: the Iraqi regime cannot but [words indistinct] the problem of prisoners, and particularly Articles 30 and 31 of Resolution [?687], and especially also the implementation of Resolution [word indistinct]. It cannot but accept, respect, hand over the prisoners, and not just the prisoners, not just the hostages. We are always talking about

the prisoners and hostages, but [words indistinct]. The international resolution speaks about handing over the prisoners, the hostages, or the bodies, if any, and also [words indistinct]. The remains of the dead and martyrs are of no less interest to us than the prisoners themselves.

The Iraqi regime, if it really wanted to return to the fold of the international community... [pauses] The international community did not impose sanctions for nothing. The international community imposed sanctions on the Iraqi regime for a reason. This reason is the existing aggression, the aggression against Kuwait, Iraq's holding of POW's, and its lack of respect for international resolutions. Accordingly, if the Iraqi regime really wants to lift what it calls the suffering of the Iraqi people, it must abide by these resolutions because it is the Iraqi regime itself that is responsible for the plight of the Iraqi people.

Mr. President [as heard], as I said, many statements were issued by officials on various occasions which did not make us respond to them. To remove any false impressions, however, to ensure that such invitations are not repeated, and to make it clear to the so-called speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, we tell him that all the invitations have reached us and we have listened to them. Despite all this, they have been rejected. So that they may not continue misleading the international community by saying that invitations have been concealed from the Kuwaiti Parliament, we tell him that the invitation has been heard and now we want you to hear the Kuwaiti people's rejection of this offer.

The Iraqi regime has no choice in the POW issue—and we challenge the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly to deny that the POW's are there —but to abide by Resolution 187 [as heard] and to allow international organizations, particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross, to have access to the POW's instead of inviting a Kuwaiti National Assembly or joint Arab delegation. [passage omitted]

We challenge the Iraqi regime respond to these files. We challenge it to tell us whether each one of these POW's is present or missing. Official Iraqi documents were given to the Iraqi regime during the days of the occupation of Kuwait giving indications on where each prisoner had been taken from, what camp he had been put in in Kuwait, and what camp he had been transferred to in Iraq. Furthermore, the regime were also given documents on where each one of them had been seen for the last time.

Therefore, the invitation made by the speaker of the so-called Iraqi National Assembly is rejected. I suggest to the brothers in the national assembly, for things to be clear, to ask the brothers in the Foreign Ministry to prepare a clear statement on the National Assembly stance which ultimately represents that of the Kuwaiti people and everybody in Kuwait: government, people, and system vis-a-vis this issue. Thank you brother president. [end recording]

Al-Sabah Praises Address

LD1904160894 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The Kuwaiti foreign minister made an address at the meeting of the Kuwaiti National Assembly today in which he praised the speech made by the speaker of the National Assembly and said that the speech was an expression of the government's view, the National Assembly, and all the Kuwaiti people. Here is a recording of this address:

[Begin Foreign Minister al-Sabah recording] Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have listened to the excellent speech made by my brother and colleague speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun. I believe the contents of this speech reflects the views of brother Ahmad al-Sa'dun as much as those of all the brothers here present in this assembly. Whether elected or appointed to this assembly, they are members of this assembly and they have the same rights. This speech expresses the views of all of us. We thank him very much. What was said is addressed not only to the Iraqi regime, but to all the world for them to know that there is no difference between government and National Assembly. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Oman

Mubarak, Qabus To Resume Talks on Yemeni Crisis

NC2004073794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Dispatch by Sa'id al-Nahdi from Salalah, Oman, on 20 April]

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will resume talks with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman in Salalah today. Mubarak is scheduled to visit China following his visit here. Yesterday the Egyptian president and the Omani monarch reviewed the situation on the Arab and international scenes.

According to well-informed sources, Mubarak and Qabus discussed the Yemeni crisis and the Omani monarch's efforts to contain it. Sultan Qabus arranged a meeting between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Salalah on 3 April. During that meeting, the two Yemeni officials are said to have reconciled their personal differences.

The same sources say that Mubarak will brief Sultan Qabus on the efforts Egypt and the United Arab Emirates made recently to contain the differences between the Yemeni sides and ensure the implementation of the Pledge and Accord document signed in Amman in February.

President Mubarak wants to start his mediation from the point the Omanis end theirs. Egypt and Oman are eager to preserve Yemen's unity and stability, according to the same sources.

Egypt's Musa Comments on Visit

NC1904145794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that President Mubarak's visit to the Sultanate of Oman is within the framework of consultations on all the issues that concern the two countries as well as the Arab nation. He said that Egypt is playing a candid and objective role in resolving the Yemeni crisis, noting that an Egyptian envoy has conveyed messages from President Mubarak to the Yemeni leaders. He said that the envoy is holding talks in Sanaa and Aden in a bid to achieve Yemeni reconciliation. [passage omitted]

At a news conference today, Musa said that President Mubarak's visit to the PRC has important political and economic dimensions. He pointed out that the PRC is a major power, plays an important role in world policy, and has historic ties with Egypt. Both countries have ancient civilizations and have had close ties in the modern age. Egypt, he noted, was the first Arab and African country to recognize the PRC in 1956. He said that special ties link President Mubarak and the PRC leadership. He said that the PRC's industrial progress prompts both countries to expand their cooperation. He noted that efforts should be made to increase Egyptian exports to the PRC. He said that exports to the PRC do not exceed $5 million, whereas the trade volume between the two countries totals $200 million. [passage omitted]

On the Iraqi information minister's statement that his country has given up its claim on Kuwait, Musa said that Iraq must make a clear and definite declaration stating that Kuwait is an independent and sovereign state and must end all talk of its being the 19th governorate or province of Iraq. This is Egypt's position, he stated. [passage omitted].

Saudi Arabia

People Warned Against Carrying 'Prohibited' Literature

LD1804114794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Apr 94

["Text" of statement issued by Interior Ministry, date not given]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 18 Apr—The Interior Ministry has issued a statement saying it is aware that individuals coming to the Kingdom to perform the pilgrimage are carrying books and leaflets for political, propaganda, or ideological aims. The following is the text of the statement:

[Passage omitted] Every year and in days similar to these, a happy occasion hovers over Muslims, when the hearts of believers flutter as they go through these days with their hearts full of faith. [passage omitted]

This Ministry has noticed that brother individuals coming here are carrying—either with good intentions, and that is what we believe, God willing, or with a desire to exploit this honorable occasion—books, photographs, and leaflets for political, propaganda, or ideological aims which would have an effect on some people or directly harm others, contradicting the noble aim of the pilgrimage.

Accordingly, the Ministry of the Interior, acting on the information it has received, draws attention to the fact that such things are totally prohibited. The Ministry hopes to give pilgrims the chance to perform their rituals with reverence and without being distracted from the worship that is the purpose of their visit. While stressing this, the ministry hopes that everyone will abide by the above and not overstep the rules. Anyone breaking the rules will be punished and returned to the place he came from.

Punishment will be decisive for anyone found carrying prohibited material of any kind. The Kingdom's system of punishment will be applied without leniency or mercy, because this Ministry's responsibility is to protect the safety of pilgrims and citizens and to ensure that this Kingdom is an oasis of goodness and safety for all those coming to the house of God or to visit the Prophet's mosque.

While the Ministry stresses the above to all pilgrims, it would like at the same time to remind them of Allah's words: "For hajj are the months well known. If anyone undertakes that duty therein, let there be no obscenity nor wickedness, nor wrangling in the hajj. And whatever good ye do, be sure Allah knows it. And take provision with you for the journey, but the best of provisions is right conduct. So fear Me, O ye that are wise." [Koranic verse]

Yemen

Military Committee Agrees To Draft 'Plan of Action'

JN1804182494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] In continuation of its previous meetings, in implementation of Cabinet Decision No. 39 of 1994, and in line with the military provisions enshrined in the accord document, the Military Committee held a second session of talks in Ta'izz this morning under brothers Defense Minister Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir and Army Chief of Staff Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik 'Ali al-Sayyali. A member of the fraternal Jordanian military team currently in Yemen, as well as the friendly U.S. and French military attaches, attended.

During the meeting, the conferees agreed to draw up a plan of action for the Military Committee aimed at drafting joint plans for the repositioning of units to be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval during the meeting it is expected to hold on 20 April. The committee will draw up a detailed and comprehensive plan for rebuilding and redeploying the Armed Forces in a manner that will promote and safeguard unity in line with the provisions enshrined in the accord document.

Iraqi Minister Holds News Conference

JN1604180094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Sanaa, 16 Apr (INA)—Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, has said Iraq has proven to the Security Council, by concrete evidence, that it has fulfilled Section C of Security Council Resolution 687. He stressed that the Security Council should now implement Paragraph 22 of the resolution by immediately lifting the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq.

At a news conference in Sanaa today, attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign press and news agencies in Yemen, Hammadi said the UN Special Commission has been monitoring Iraq's weapons of mass destruction for over two years. Therefore, U.S. and British allegations that Iraq has not complied with the monitoring regime are baseless.

The minister of culture and information also spoke about Iraq's calls for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, the last of which was President Saddam Husayn's speech on 2 April 1990. He stressed that the presence of weapons of mass destruction in the region is not in the interest of its peoples because of what these weapons cause in terms of terrorism and threats to peace and security in the region.

The minister said Iraq's agreement to implement Section C of Security Council Resolution 687 is part of the general framework asserted by Paragraph 14 of the same resolution which calls on the Security Council to make the Middle East a region free of those weapons.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said this demand reflects Iraq's policy that had been adopted long before the aggression. On the next Security Council review of the Iraq embargo, Hamid Yusuf Hammdi said after Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations, the Security Council is asked to fulfill its own obligations by lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq.

He pointed out that Iraq's diplomatic drive is based on explaining facts objectively. This has convinced some major nations that Iraq has indeed fulfilled its obligations. He underlined, in this regard, the objective stance of France, Russia, and China and other countries during the recent Security Council session on the Iraq embargo.

The minister of culture and information added that the position of these countries reflected their conviction that Iraq has indeed fulfilled its obligations and that the Security Council should now lift the embargo.

He said the fact that the Security Council has not issued its traditional statement in its recent meeting is evidence that there is a split within the council between the majority, which supports lifting the embargo, and the U.S. and British minority.

He said a considerable number of countries are now siding with Iraq and seek lifting the embargo and resuming economic relations with it. He said the Special Commission's procrastination by not fixing a date for starting the monitoring means there will be no specific date for lifting the embargo.

Asked about the aim of his visit to Yemen, Hammadi said he communicated a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih outlining the Iraqi leadership's perspective on coordination with Arab and friendly nations to lift the sanctions decreed by the UN Security Council.

The minister compared the starving and destructive impact of the sanctions to that of weapons of mass destruction.

On the Kurdish issue, the minister said the U.S. Administration applies double standards in dealing with the Iraqi Kurds, citing the plight of Kurds in neighboring countries who are being killed every day.

Hammadi dismissed as groundless Kuwait's claims that Iraq detains Kuwaiti prisoners. Iraq is not holding a single Kuwaiti, the minister emphasized. This issue has now been referred to the Arab League and Red Cross, said the minister.

He noted that Iraq had proposed that a committee chaired by a Moroccan and including deputies from the Kuwaiti National Assembly and representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council visit Iraq to pursue the case of the people Kuwait contends are missing.

Hammadi said it was a distortion to link the sanctions to the issue of Kuwait. Section C of UN Security Council Resolution 687, he explained, shows the two are unrelated. Linkage is being promoted by the United States to keep the sanctions.

Keeping the sanctions in place, he said, is causing considerable detriment to the economies of many countries. He cited the case of Turkey, which has sustained a $20 billion-loss in income due to its suspended trade with Iraq and the cutoff of Iraqi oil transiting Turkish territory.

The minister disclosed that Iraq has access to valuable information related to the World Trade Center bombing in New York. Iraq stands ready to cooperate with the United States on the matter, preferably under the auspices of the American Congress, he indicated.

On Iraq's effort to repair the damage wrought by the aggression, Hammadi said our success in rebuilding 80 percent of our facilities within the span of 11 months has thwarted the plans of the United States and its allies. Numerous countries, like France, have shown an interest in reestablishing commercial and diplomatic ties with Iraq, after they became convinced that Iraq has fulfilled the obligations stipulated by UN Security Council resolutions, said Hammadi.

GPC Spokesman Denies Links With Various Organizations

PM1904112094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Hamud Munsir: "General People's Congress Denies Sanaa Alliance With al-Turabi Conference and Brotherhood"]

[Excerpt] London, Sanaa—'Abd-al-Salam al-'Anasi, head of the general department in the Yemeni General People's Congress [GPC], has denied reports of the arrival in Sanaa of delegations from Arab and international Islamic movements "to discuss an alliance formula with the GPC led by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]," the northern partners in the ruling coalition in Yemen, in the face of a so-called "Egyptian alliance with the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] against extremist organizations."

He made this statement following information supplied to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by well-informed sources, namely that Sanaa received a delegation from the West German-based Muslim Brotherhood's international organization based in West Germany and a delegation from the Khartoum-based Arab Islamic [Popular] Conference [AIPC] led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi.

The sources added that the two delegations met with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and expressed willingness to support Sanaa in its dispute with the Aden-based YSP.

The sources said that the proposal for the Muslim Brotherhood international organization to cooperate with the Yemeni leadership "is limited to the ideological aspect" and includes moving the headquarters of an Islamic studies center and a European-based Islamic magazine to Sanaa, in addition to appointing Faris al-Saqqaf, member of the YRG Higher Committee, as the magazine's chief editor and providing expertise to contribute to the battle against the YSP.

As for the AIPC's proposal, the sources said that it "stresses the need to prepare for a military battle to secure a jihad atmosphere that helps to polarize Islamic mujahidin from all over the world in order to wage a war against the YSP and prevent it from returning to secularism." The sources added that AIPC representatives cited in their proposal what they termed "Egypt's supply of military and security experts to Aden."

Yemeni television's Channel 2, which transmits from Aden, has launched a media campaign against "extremism in the name of Islam."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT could not get in touch with Faris al-Saqqaf yesterday evening, as he was busy with the YRG Higher Committee meeting. However, 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Anasi pointed out that these reports "are part of the media leaks which the YSP has begun to use in the framework of a new shift in its media rhetoric to manage the Yemeni crisis." Al-'Anasi said that 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the YSP, and Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the YSP, "said recently that they had uncovered a political Islam plan in Yemen against the democratic unionist plan—which is untrue and has nothing to do with political reality in Yemen." He expressed his amazement at the YSP's use of this card "to win the West over against political forces currently allied with it in power." [passage omitted]

Yemeni Office To Move to Warsaw To Promote Arms 'Deals'

PM1804154494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah: "Yemeni 'Military' Establishment Moves Its Office From Moscow to Warsaw"]

[Excerpts] London—Colonel Muhammad al-Shahari, representative of the Yemeni Economic Establishment in East Europe, is preparing to open a new office in the Polish capital, Warsaw, within days, to continue his task of concluding and implementing the deals relating to arms purchased by the Yemeni leadership in Sanaa. That is, in the context of deploying and arming its military forces in anticipation of any military action between the northern General People's Congress forces and the southern forces belonging to the Socialist Party, as a result of the current crisis threatening Yemen's unity.

This development in the Yemeni Economic Establishment comes after the decision to change its name, removing the word "military," and after the closure of its office in Moscow as a result of the state of political openness which Russia is currently witnessing and in the light of the Russian military attache's participation in the proceedings of the joint military committee and his direct acquaintance with the true conditions there, as a result of which he regularly informs his government of the details of what is happening. While Russia is working to join the Western states' community and hence is forced to take account of numerous considerations in its foreign policy, prompting it to sacrifice some arms sales in states experiencing a certain crisis, East European states where communism has collapsed continue to look for markets, even for a "few dollars" to solve their economic problems, even if it is at others' expense. The Economic "Military" Establishment's approach has not

been affected by the clamor provoked by the Polish press and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's report about the arms deals concluded with the two Polish companies Cenzin and Cenrex to supply the northern armed forces with various types of weapons, after this was revealed by Muhammad Sharaf, Yemeni charge d'affaires in Warsaw, during his contacts with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah in Sanaa and later in a telephone conversation with Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas in Aden—because these deals conflict with the stipulations of the "Pledge and Accord Document," seeking to avoid military aggravation of the Yemeni crisis.

The Polish arms trade with Yemen actually began on 18 November 1993, namely when Col. 'Abdallah al-Hadrami, director general of the Economic (formerly Military) Establishment, paid a 24-hour visit to Warsaw. The visit was a surprise to many people. Al-Hadrami rejected the charge d'affaires' request to attend his meeting with the chairman of Cenzin responsible for war production, so as to prevent him from learning details of what was going to be discussed, thus doing away with his efforts as official representative of the united Republic of Yemen to follow up any action concerning the country. It was decided that contacts should be made directly with the Yemeni establishment, namely through Col. Muhammad al-Shahari, director of its Moscow office. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT cooperated with a number of Polish journalists to uncover details of the deal and managed to obtain copies of the letters sent by the companies Cenzin and Cenrex and companies of the visa applications. Polish Economic Cooperation Ministry and Foreign Ministry sources approved the signing and implementation of the military deals, whose value ranges between tens of millions and hundreds of millions of dollars. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Changes Linked to Polish Arms Deal 'Crisis'

PM1804141294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah: "Yemeni Foreign Minister Returns Socialist Party Diplomats to Sanaa"]

[Excerpt] London, Sanaa, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has reshuffled staff in Yemeni embassies abroad. The reshuffle affects in particular diplomats who come from southern Yemen and those who have close links with the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], one of the two parties to the Yemeni political crisis. The other party to the crisis is the General People's Congress [GPC].

The most notable feature of this reshuffle is the return of diplomats "who do not enjoy Sanaa's trust" to Yemen.

A source close to the YSP rejected this reshuffle, pointing out that a number of embassies have not received their expenses for many months, in order to force YSP diplomats to return. The source warned that, if these embassies do not receive their allowances, Aden will allocate to them allowances that guarantee the continuation of their work, lest Yemeni diplomacy become a partisan tool in the hands of the GPC.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Yemeni embassies run by a southerner occupying the ambassador post usually has at least one northerner on whom Sanaa relies in running most affairs and contacts, while the head of the diplomatic mission remains just a symbol.

A well-informed source has said that the recent diplomatic reshuffle is a reaction to the crisis caused by Muhammad Sharaf, Yemeni charge d'affaires in Warsaw, who provoked a big clamor when he revealed a secret arms deal which the Economic Military Establishment had concluded with Poland for the northern military command. He refused to issue entry visas for Polish arms companies' officials to enable them to visit Sanaa and complete the negotiations concerning the deal.

It is worth mentioning that the Yemeni Foreign Ministry granted some Polish officials visas upon their arrival at Sanaa airport. Upon his arrival in Warsaw last Sunday, Fu'ad Sawwaf Sivjik [as transliterated], sales director of the Polish company Cenzin, said that he had signed a contract worth tens of millions of dollars to supply the Yemeni Defense Ministry with arms, ammunition, and equipment. [passage omitted]

Saddam Receives Yemeni Envoy, Message From President

JN1704131994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1134 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from his brother Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The message was conveyed by Ahmad Yahya al-'Imad, member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress and adviser to the Yemeni Presidential Council.

The message deals with relations between the sisterly countries and the developments in the political situation in Yemen.

The president's reception ceremony for the Yemeni envoy was attended by Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid, adviser at the presidency, and 'Abd-al-Jabbar 'Umar, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Envoy Praises Saddam

JN1804185594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—Ahmad Yahya al-'Imad, member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress and adviser to the Presidential Council in Yemen, has stressed that President Saddam Husayn is one of the Arab nation's immortal symbols and embodies the Arab nation's hopes and aspirations for a bright future.

In a statement to INA, al-'Imad said that he conveyed a written message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother President Saddam Husayn on the close bilateral relations, the developments of the Yemeni crisis, and the efforts being exerted to overcome it.

He added that President Saddam Husayn had a distinguished role in the realization of the the Yemeni unity, and that his excellency is still extremely interested in safeguarding this Yemeni Arab achievement. This, he said, is because the failure of this unity is a failure for the Arab nation's hopes to achieve Arab unity.

Ahmad Yahya al-'Imad denounced the continued unjust blockade imposed on the children, women, and elderly of Iraq. He pointed out that the imposition of this blockade is considered a serious violation of the human rights about which U.S. imperialism and its allies brag.

Saddam Visits al-Hadar, Previews 'International Festival'

JN1504173294 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Baghdad, INA—Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has visited the archaeological city of al-Hadar. Upon his arrival in the city, he was received by the engineer in charge of restoring and rehabilitating the archaeological features in al- Hadar. Meanwhile, several workers and citizens gathered around him to express their jubilation and happiness over the president's visit. Having toured the temples of the historical city, during which His Excellency President Saddam Husayn listened to a detailed explanation of the city, its history, and some of the significant archaeological sites discovered as a result of the continuous excavation activities there, the leader president inquired about the preparations currently under way for the launching of the first al- Hadar International Festival.

Then, the leader president, may God protect him, attended part of the rehearsals conducted by an art group in preparation for the festival. Later, the leader president, may God protect him, left the city after he had been accorded a farewell ceremony by the director of the al-Hadar restoration project, workers, and citizens.

Envoy Briefs Arab League Head on Invitation to Kuwait

NC1904211894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League.

Following the meeting, Ambassador Najm said that he briefed the Arab League secretary general on the statement made by Mahdi Sa'di Salih, the Iraqi National Assembly speaker, in which he invited a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation to visit Iraq to discuss all pending issues between the two countries in order to serve pan-Arab causes, fulfill the two sides' interests, and end the state of conflict and instability in the region.

The Iraqi envoy regretted the decision made by the Lebanese Government to sever diplomatic relations with Baghdad. He said that this decision came at a time when Iraq was eager to normalize its Arab ties.

'Hasty' Move by Lebanon Regretted; Envoy Release Demanded

JN2004103994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0946 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)—Iraq has expressed extreme regret over Lebanon's decision to sever its diplomatic ties with Iraq, describing it as a hasty decision.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said today that having detained diplomatic employees with diplomatic immunity under suspicious circumstances and on the basis of unfounded and incorrect accusations, the Lebanese Government has violated the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, particularly Articles 29 and 31 of this convention. The

Lebanese Government also rejected an Iraqi proposal to set up a joint Iraqi-Lebanese committee to supervise the investigations, the spokesman noted.

The spokesman stressed that those measures also contravene the brotherly relations which should prevail between Arab countries.

Iraq demands the Lebanese Government to immediately release the detained diplomats and not to molest other diplomats in any way whatsoever. Iraq also urges the Lebanese Government to show respect for its obligations in accordance with the Vienna Convention and the rules of international dealing. This would be by allowing all our embassy employees in Lebanon without exception to leave the Lebanese territory, provide protection for them and their families, and maintain the embassy building and property.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry held the Lebanese Government fully responsible for its hasty decision of severing diplomatic relations with Iraq and for its erroneous behavior toward the Iraqi diplomats.

The source hoped that circumstances will prevail in Lebanon so that the Lebanese brothers will be able to express their true position toward Lebanon-loving Iraq and to rectify this grave mistake committed by their government.

Paper Criticizes Attempts 'To Harm' Ties With Lebanon

JN2004112694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has criticized some parties' attempts to harm Iraq's relations with Lebanon, describing them as an effort to distract the attention of the Lebanese people from the enemies of its sovereignty and unity in Damascus and Tel Aviv.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an analysis today that no matter how cunning those parties are, nobody will be convinced that Lebanon's problem is Iraq. Iraq, the paper maintains, has not been sharing the occupation of Lebanon with Israel for approximately 20 years. Nor has it been imposing on Lebanon its presidents, prime ministers, and Arab and foreign policies. Besides, the history of the Iraqi Army is not spoiled with the crimes of the invasion of Lebanon, nor has this army turned the Lebanese territory into a hotbed of terrorism, kidnappings, and extortion.

Referring to the level and quality of Iraq's relations with Lebanon, the paper says that Iraq's extremely clean official and popular relations with Lebanon are known. They have always been based on respect for Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independent options. They have never advocated any tendencies that would harm the unity of the Lebanese people and territory. This is well known by all Lebanese.

Turkish Official Interviewed on Various Issues

JN1604120894 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 16, INA—Turkish foreign undersecretary, Mr. Ozdem Sanberk said Iraq and Turkey mapped out a new formula on resuming Iraqi oil flow via the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline over the few next months in a non-violation move of the UN conditions.

'In an exclusive interview to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily published today' the Turkish official hoped that reoperation of the pipeline which would be technically tested, would not exceed this year's end. [sentence as received]

Answering a question on his government's reaction towards continuity of the current situation in northern Iraq and the possibility of creating problems between the two countries, he said this matter was jeopardizing the prospective trade exchange between Iraq and Turkey and it had to be settled in favor of Iraq's national and territorial integrity.

Mr. Sanberk, heading the first ever official Turkish delegation to visit Iraq since the end of the 30-state aggression on Iraq confirmed the Turkish people's rising calls for the government to offer all possible backing to Iraq and that the Turkish government began to sense now, more than ever before, the necessity of boosting bilateral ties, and intensive visits by Turkish officials would be conducted over the coming days, Mr. Ozdem added.

He added that the delegation had taken a clear picture of Iraq's current need of spare parts and equipment that could be provided by Turkey during and after the blockade.

The Turkish official hailed the efforts exerted by Iraqi people to reconstruct, within an exceptional period, what had been destroyed by the allies bombing campaigns of 1991.

Official Departs

JN1604121594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1113 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—Ozdem Sanberk, under secretary of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, left Baghdad today after a three-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Turkish official said the talks that he and his delegation held with a number of Iraqi officials were positive and friendly because they were based on the historical relations binding the two neighboring countries.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry official said that an agreement has been reached with Iraq that commercial ties must be restored to their status before the blockade was imposed. He indicated that it has been agreed to make available the requirements for the resumption of these

relations, and that Turkey has started the required steps for the resumption of commercial relations as soon as the blockade is lifted.

He stressed that Turkey's current role is to help the international community lift the blockade imposed on Iraq and end the suffering of its people. He stressed that contacts between officials from the neighboring countries' Foreign Ministries will continue.

Kurdish Radio Eulogizes Victims in Helicopter Downing

NC1504180494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1619 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Station commentary: "They Came To Die as Martyrs in Kurdistan]

[Text] The downing of two U.S. helicopters yesterday over Iraq's Kurdistan by two U.S. fighter planes was the first of its kind in Kurdistan. It was a tragic accident that the Kurdish people deeply and bitterly regret. The two helicopters were carrying UN officials and military personnel from the international protection force that was set up by the United Nations for the Kurdish people.

The U.S. President was deeply distressed when he announced the tragedy to the American people and all other nations. The Kurdish people's distress is deeper because it has lost a group of friends who came from every corner of the earth to give it relief, help it live in peace, and also help in rebuilding liberated Kurdistan. The Kurdish people do not want their friends to die on Kurdistan's soil or in allied and friendly planes that fly over Kurdistan.

How splendid it was when the U.S. President said that these men were performing their duty of providing protection for the Kurdish people and died while performing this duty.

The incident has military and strategic significance too. Regardless of the confusion or technical error that showed the two helicopters on the two fighter planes' radar screens as hostile targets—and investigations will of course reveal the cause of this technical error—the incident has an extremely important strategic significance; namely, that it is an unambiguous signal to the ruling dictatorship in Baghdad confirming that the international protection force is always vigilant and actively present and that any hostile move against the Kurdish people, territories, and air space will be immediately crushed. The international protection force operating in Kurdistan has firm and clear orders to abort any hostile adventure that the regime of death and crime might think of mounting against the Kurdish people.

We have the right to regard these courageous men, the victims of humanitarian duty, as martyrs of the peaceful Kurdish people who are faithful to their friends. How nice it would be if the Kurdistan region's government and parliament were to issue a resolution to this effect. How nice it would be if the Kurdish parties were to lower their flags in mourning. How nice it would be if we were to erect a monument for them and for all our friends and allies who had been killed and martyred, a monument that would immortalize them and would be an expression of gratitude and a memorial to friendship between man and his brother.

Claims of Iranian Clerics in Detention Said 'Baseless'

JN1904114394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] An official Foreign Ministry source has issued the following reaction to Iranian Foreign Ministry contentions on 16 April about the treatment of some Iranians who are residing in Iraq:

The Iranian regime's claim that Iranian clerics who have been residing in Iraq for the past 20 months are now in detention is baseless. It is an attempt by the Iranian regime to mislead and conceal facts from the Iranian public opinion through false allegations.

The source said that talk about Iraqi citizens is ridiculous and illustrates the Iranian regime's insistence on meddling in Iraq's internal affairs that runs counter to a sincere desire on the part of Iraq to settle pending issues.

INA Editor Denies Country Sponsored 'Sabotage'

JN1904203394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2008 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has denied Tehran radio's report that Iraq has sent persons to Iran to carry out acts of sabotage.

The editor said these accusations are ridiculous and part of a tendentious media campaign against Iraq.

Tehran radio today announced that a huge explosion of a booby- trapped car occurred in central Tehran today.

Some time after this false accusation by the Iranian regime's organs, REUTER and the international news media said an Islamic group opposing the Iranian regime has claimed responsibility for the explosion, and that this group's headquarters is in Pakistan.

Opposition Leader Appeals to Army To Liberate Country

NC2004062294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1655 GMT 19 Apr 94

["Text" of appeal from Major General Hasan al-Naqib, member of the presidential council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, to the Iraqi people and armed forces as published by the Congress' mouthpiece AL-MU'TAMAR in this week's edition]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O ye who believe, if a wicked person comes to

you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterwards become full of repentance for what ye have done. [Koranic verse]

O patient and struggling Iraqi people. O valiant sons of our armed forces.

The dictator is daily persisting with his tyranny and the [words indistinct] with the genocide, robbery, and disregard for all values. A few days ago, Staff General Iyad Fulayyih, the Army chief of staff, and some of his field commanders came out for three days to boast of the greatest victory achieved by the Iraqi Army in its modern history, in the Mother of Battles war as Saddam called it during an explanation of [word indistinct].

What drew attention was the state of discomfiture and anxiety of the chief of staff, whom we know to be resolute and accurate when discussing any of his forces' activities in any of the pages of fighting [word indistinct] the battles of his master's endless battles. This clearly reflected his fear of digressing from what his commander in chief has taught him to say. We do not want to be unfair to the man, for what can a person do when his neck is under the butcher's knife?

For the sake of truth and history, we are letting the people and Army hear the voice of fairness. We are confident that they know more than we the consequences of this war, consequences that were brought about by this military thinker who is behind these so-called victories which, according to the chief of staff, resulted from the accurate planning and follow-up of the implementation by the Iraqi Armed Forces' commander in chief.

We ask him: What were these victories? What lethal pocket had the enemy forces been trapped in where he [Saddam] inflicted heavy losses on them and forced them to halt the war unilaterally? In which huge tank battle did his armored forces win? Was it the capture of the commanders of five divisions and hundreds of commanders or brigades and divisions? Were they the tank regiments that were taken to the prisoner-of-war camps in Tabuk and Hafr al-Batin? Or were they the tens of thousands of officers and other ranks who were taken prisoner? Or were they the thousands more innocent soldiers who were burned to death by the missiles and air attacks? Or were they the thousands who are still missing and whose fate remains unknown? Or were they the long columns of destroyed and burned-out tanks, equipment, and artillery all along the battle lines? Or was it the strategic reserves that were destroyed all along the communications lines which cost billions of dollars?

O great Iraqi people. O honorable sons of our stricken Army. A thousand and one questions we ask with pain and bitterness we feel as a result of the catastrophe that has befallen the Iraqi people, Army, and [word indistinct] and which was planned and implemented by Saddam Husayn and his family which is deeply involved in crime and which harbors latent hatred for this peaceful and safe country.

We tell the tyrant that the hour of reckoning has come. We appeal to all the honorable [word indistinct], commanders, officers, and other ranks and ask them: Until when will the tyrant continue to butcher your brothers and sons, violate honor, and trample on values and norms with his [word indistinct] feet? O zealous sons of al-Rafidayn, since when have you been the tool of a tyrannic ruler's oppression?

O honorable brothers. The situation has come to a head. The eyes of widows, mothers who have lost their sons, and [words indistinct] are looking to you. Your brothers in the Unified National Iraqi Congress [UNIC] place all their resources at your disposal and you will see them with you in the trench of steadfastness. Let us proceed together on the road of liberation. Do what you have to do and leave the rest to God. There is no help except from God. [Koranic verse] God's peace, mercy, and blessings be with you.

[Signed] Staff Major General Hasan Mustafa al-Naqib, member of the UNIC's presidential council.

Woman 'Agent' Arrested, Confesses to Bombings

NC1904185894 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The army command's units in the al-Sulaymaniyah governorate have arrested a woman agent of the Iraqi regime's intelligence service. At a news conference held by the army command in al-Sulaymaniyah, the criminal, 37-year-old Hajar, confessed that in December 1993 she detonated an explosive device in the hospital for handicapped people run by Handicap International. One citizen was martyred and 10 others were injured in that explosion, for which she was paid 50,000 dinars by the Iraqi regime.

The criminal added that she was arrested while she was returning to al-Sulaymaniyah from Baghdad on the night of 13-14 April. She said that she intended to plant time bombs in the hospitals run by international humanitarian aid organizations or where foreign doctors work in return for $10,000 from the Iraqi regime.

In other developments, the army command in Irbil has announced that yesterday afternoon its units defused a time bomb planted in a downtown park.

Rabin, Peres Reportedly Accept Full Golan Withdrawal

TA1904182594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] The prime minister's candor in today's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was surprising, at least in view of the fact that merely two days ago, Rabin was furious at the disclosure of the very existence of the General Staff working papers on the Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

Senior political and military elements told us today: Rabin has just confirmed what everybody has known for some time: He and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have accepted the concept of a full IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Golan Heights, including the evacuation of all the settlements. The ideal line suggested in the IDF treatise on partial withdrawal lies 5 to 8 km away from the mountain ridge line—the line from which the Lake of Tiberias and the Hula Valley can be observed. Today Rabin said: I am ready to move west of there—namely, up to the ridge line itself in the first stage and probably completely off the Golan Heights in the second stage.

Hence, the haggling with the Syrians will be over other issues: security arrangements, the manning of the Golan Heights early warning stations, and the gradual nature of withdrawal. As for acreage, the die has been cast.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 19 April, in a report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, adds: "There is doubt in Jerusalem that progress with Syria is feasible" at this time, because "at this stage, Peres and Rabin are not enthusiastic about either a U.S. visit or any meaningful progress with Syria. At this stage, they would prefer to postpone it until the IDF completes its withdrawal, or rather, to turn to the Syrian track only after the first stage of the Israel-PLO agreement is implemented." Sukenik adds: "Almost every element involved in this issue believes that when the process gets down to brass tacks, there will be talk of full peace and full, or almost full, withdrawal from the Golan."]

Rabin Ready To Go Beyond IDF Recommendation

TA1904145894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that he is ready for a greater withdrawal on the Golan than that recommended by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff. The prime minister's statement was made in reply to a question from Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the prime minister stressed that the working paper he received from Major General Ilan Biran did not refer to a total IDF withdrawal from the Golan.

Also at today's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session, Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, said the regular troops are in a difficult situation, because all the men are tied up in operational activity in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Rabin noted that instead of the planned six months of training, the regular troops were barely receiving three months, and if the situation continues, the level of preparedness will be affected. The prime minister added that there are many friction-prone sites in Hebron, which are liable to lead to a conflagration. For that reason, the best units are tied up in that location.

[A related report by Tamar Asalem on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 19 April adds: "The prime minister said that Jordan may not attend the Washington talks because of the naval blockade imposed by the United States on al-'Aqabah. He believes, however, that an agreement with Jordan will be possible only after one is achieved with Syria.

["Discussing the Syrian issue, the prime minister stated that there is a principle of international presence on the Golan, but he did not specify the nature of the presence. The prime minister added that all decisions would be made by the political echelons, and all publicized documents merely represent the process of data gathering and preparatory work.

["MK Beni Begin told the prime minister that he understood that the General Staff recommendations specified a smaller withdrawal area than Rabin found acceptable. Rabin's simple reply: Yes. There is no argument that in the military sense, the present line is better than any line lying farther to the west, but our work is based on a certain political reality."]

'Hundreds of Hamas Activists' Said Detained

TA1904155494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpt] In a wide-scale operation in the territories, security forces have rounded up hundreds of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and operatives. A number of weapons were also confiscated in the sweep, which took place last night. Alan Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] The authorities are being tight-lipped about exactly how many people have been arrested and who they are. But figures obtained from various sources, including Palestinians in the territories, indicate that as many as 400 or so people were detained in the round up. A terse statement by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman also said that weapons and ammunition were uncovered during the raids on towns, villages, and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The massive crack-down is being viewed as a severe blow to Hamas and its operations, at least temporarily. But security sources point out that there are gunmen from the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam gangs still at large, and they can be expected to mount attacks of one sort or another, despite this wide-spread move against Hamas members and operatives at various levels. Certainly, this is the biggest operation against Hamas in the territories since Israel deported more than 400 to Lebanon in December 1992. An international outcry resulted and all the deported being allowed to eventually return, and some of the were among the men picked up in this new crack-down. Most of the people arrested are said to be in their late teens or early twenties, and to include a number who were directly involved with planned terrorist attacks.

Hamas has openly boasted that its members were planning a total of five attacks against Israelis, with two more still to come, following the deadly bombs in 'Afula and Hadera and the ax attack on a bus in Jerusalem. Seven Israelis have died and more than 80 been injured in those attacks. A number of prominent Hamas personalities, including Taysir Tamimi and Jamal al-Natshah from Hebron, and Yasir Mansur from Nabulus are amongst those arrested. The big wave of arrests follows raids last week in which about 70 Hamas activists and operatives were picked up. Security sources say more arrests can be expected in the days ahead. [end recording]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the arrests of those responsible for acts of terrorism will continue. Rabin appeared today before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, where he also said he supports a greater withdrawal from the Golan heights than that being recommended by the Army. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] As he left the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was asked about the arrests of Hamas activists.

[Rabin] Let us put it this way: We will fight those who continue terror with all the means that are available to us. The only limitation is the limitation of the law. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shahal Confirms 362 Detained

TA2004093294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal confirmed in the Knesset that 362 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters were detained in the Gaza Strip last night. Some will be put on trial and others will be held in administrative detention. The minister said the detentions were carried out following the investigation into the car bombs in 'Afula and Hadera. Shahal noted that at least one investigation of the eight car bombs recently discovered uncovered components the security forces have found in Lebanon.

Observers Said To Deploy Within 7 to 10 Days

TA1904155594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The international observer contingent will deploy in Hebron within a week to 10 days, Jerusalem political circles said. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned that Israel has received a draft of the observers' presence mandate, which defines their activities and addresses the questions of their immunity, freedom of movement, and reporting procedures. Israel finds the draft acceptable, and the sides are now awaiting the response of the PLO.

IDF Preparations for Autonomy Detailed

TA1504124994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 8 Apr 94 pp 2, 3, 21

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders in the Gaza Strip and Jericho are exhibiting hesitant optimism. Even after the 'Afula car bomb and its bloody consequences and even after the stabbings at the Kissufim roadblock and the shooting at the Ashdod Junction, they still believe that reasonable safety can be guaranteed for Jews who will live inside and on the border of the Palestinian self-rule areas.

"The defense system we have devised creates a physical barrier between Jews and Arabs, reducing friction to the minimum and hindering terrorist attacks. Even suicide attackers will have to exert themselves to succeed," said people who will have to turn this pledge into reality. These people also believe that after a brief adjustment period, the Palestinian police force will perform well and will be able to enforce order.

As the evacuation clamor intensifies, there is more extensive coordination with the local chapter of Fatah and there is a feeling among the personnel involved that this model exercise (launched in preparation for autonomy throughout the territories) stands a good chance. It is not a matter of a mere gut feeling. The intelligence materiel, as well as the periodical talks with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people, are grounds for the belief that the Islamic Movement will also join the arrangement eventually.

Moreover, local IDF commanders do not fear that 'Arafat's policemen/soldiers will be unable to exercise complete control over Hamas and the other rejectionist organizations. They believe that such a situation is quite likely during the first months after the evacuation, but claim that even if that happens, the safety of the Jewish settlements and residents on both sides of the Green Line can be safeguarded. The IDF and Israel Police redeployment and the security arrangements set down in the agreement with the Palestinians make that possible. Yet Israel will have to deploy more troops than planned around and inside the Strip and around Jericho and will have to bolster its intelligence setup.

The IDF is also prepared for the worst-case scenario in which 'Arafat and his men either lose control or decide for some reason not to adhere to the agreement, for a scenario in which the Strip or the Jericho enclave become one big terrorist base. "Such an extreme development would mean that the agreement between us and the PLO has collapsed," a very senior officer says, "and if the agreement no longer exists, Israel will be free to act as its sees fit in the defense of the Jewish residents and settlements." In this context, "as it sees fit" does not necessarily mean the reoccupation of either the Strip or the Jericho enclave, although that, too, is possible. It means adjusting the measures and the intensity of the reaction to the situation in the field.

The agreement with the PLO (which has not been finalized and signed as yet) stipulates that three lateral roads from Israeli territory to the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip will be controlled by the IDF—not only the roads themselves but also several dozen meters (probably 30 meters on each side) on both sides of the roads. If the PLO police fail in preventing attacks against Israeli vehicles driving on these roads, Israel will consider itself free to expand the IDF-controlled territory on both sides of these roads to a point from which terrorists will be unable to harass people using the roads. Incidentally, joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols, under Israeli command, will move along these lateral roads, but the bulk of the security tasks will be assigned to IDF and Border Police patrols.

And another point: Although Gaza Strip residents will be allowed to travel to and from the West Bank, they will be confined to one or two roads, from which they will not be permitted to stray.

Another possibility was explored in simulation exercises held at the Southern Command before its recommendations on the arrangement with the Palestinians were submitted: How will the IDF react if Gaza terrorists acquire or improvise light mortars or katyushas and use them to fire at Israeli settlements from a distance? The proposed solution: Issue a warning and give the Palestinian police force a chance to tackle the problem by themselves. If 'Arafat's men are either unwilling or unable, the IDF (with the political echelons' approval) will not hesitate to send its own troops into the Palestinian self-rule territory and to take every necessary step. These troops will not have to remain there on a permanent basis. As in Lebanon, they will conduct their operation and leave the territory; stay for a short period and leave; or, in extreme cases, set up a permanent outpost. By the way, the undercover units in Gaza and in Judaea and Samaria will undergo changes, but the Duvdevan unit will continue to operate in Judaea and Samaria.

Almost every problem expected to arise during the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement has a quite satisfactory military answer. The main problem is political: There is a danger that the experiment will fail for some reason, such as an inter-Palestinian bloodbath inside an area evacuated by Israel. There is hardly any doubt that in such an event, international public opinion will point an accusing finger at us, and we will be unable to do anything to stop the massacre. Or if Gaza or the Jericho enclave should become a terrorist hornet's nest, God forbid, and the IDF will have to reconquer the areas. In such an event, too, our statesmen will have to work overtime to counter criticism about Israel's having violated the agreement and fight demands for anti-Israel sanctions, which are certain to be raised at the United Nations. Hence, the Palestinian police force's failure is no less our problem than it is Chairman Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat].

As already stated, the belief is that this force will eventually manage to become the sovereign force in the area. It is almost certain that should anything happen in Jericho or in the Gaza Strip, the PLO stands a good chance of more-or-less prevailing over Hamas and the other "refuseniks." The main problem the police force will face—in the first months, at least—will be the tension between the policemen from abroad and the veteran "intifadah fighters," who were part of the scene either in the area or in one Ansar or another throughout the years. And although they are on the same side, veteran Fatah men in the field will also find it difficult to accept an unfamiliar general from the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA], an army whose three brigades have yet to score an achievement.

And there is another problem. The PLA's police training is insufficient. It is unfamiliar with the terrain and has received no antiterror warfare training. It can be safely assumed that in the beginning, Hamas and Islamic Jihad youngsters will fool them quite easily. 'Arafat is aware of this problem and is therefore trying to man his police force with as many Fatah members as possible. The latter—for example, members of the notorious Force 17 (responsible for the Nizzanim and Achille Lauro terrorist attacks)—are better trained than the PLA troops. Yet an excessive number of Fatah representatives in the police force will create the impression that the force is not pan-Palestinian but rather a Fatah branch trying to promote—under Israeli sponsorship—the organization's political goals.

If all this is not enough, 'Arafat is appointing two or three persons to the same post at a time when a clear chain of command is vital. It is not clear why he is behaving this way. Perhaps he must appease his many touchy aides who are vital for his maintaining control over the organization, or perhaps this is a Machiavellian ploy aimed at having his appointees fight each other, thus weakening them. The one result, however, is incredible confusion. To date, the IDF does not know for sure who will be responsible for security in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho on 'Arafat's behalf. To be on the safe side, IDF officers are holding a dialogue with everybody—that is, with all those who are already in the area.

Of all the childhood diseases (so it is hoped) of the Palestinian police force, the one that worries the IDF

and the other security branches most of all is liaison and coordination. The joint patrols along previously demarcated roads are not such a big problem, because the Palestinian and Israeli commanders on the ground can communicate directly. If such a patrol is ambushed, for example, it is likely that all its members will return the fire. The experience of the recent past shows us that former enemies can find a common language, especially if they share a common interest.

The most difficult mission, however, will be to attain real security cooperation and prevent mistakes and regrettable mishaps while each side is maintaining its special overt and covert operations. For example: What will a Palestinian police force do if it recognizes an Israeli intelligence man in the area? Or what will soldiers manning an IDF post do if they identify Palestinian terrorists preparing for an attack in the Palestinian autonomy area, not far from them?

The solution proposed by the IDF is to set up coordination centers, each one made up of two operations rooms—one Israeli and one Palestinian—furnished with sophisticated communications equipment. These two operations rooms will be close to each other, thus enabling quick coordination 24 hours a day. This coordination will apply not only to IDF and Border Police forces vis-a-vis the Palestinian police force but also to the Shin Bet vis-a-vis the Palestinian internal security force. Overall security, on the Israeli side, will be in the hands of the local IDF commander. There will be two such centers in the Gaza Strip: one, located at the Erez checkpoint, for coordinating activity in the northern Gaza Strip; the other, in Nuriya in the Qatif Bloc near Khan Yunus, for coordinating operations in the southern part. In the Jericho enclave, there will be one joint operations room. The unfortunate incident in Jabalyah last week, in which six Fatah peace supporters were killed, apparently made the Palestinians grasp the advantages of the method proposed by Israel.

Another source for Israeli concern is the weapons—mainly the ammunition—which will be provided to the Palestinian police force. The Palestinians—particularly those in the Gaza Strip—already have a sizable amount of light weapons. There is no shortage of assault rifles, submachine guns, pistols, or grenades of all kinds for terrorist acts. The terrorists, however, do not have enough ammunition, explosives, and long-range weapons such as mortars, heavy machine guns, and RPG launchers.

Since the IDF will continue to be in charge of the external borders of the autonomy, it is likely that the terrorists will continue to find it difficult to bring in weapons and ammunition from the outside. But at least some of the weapons the terrorists lack will be found in the Palestinian police force's possession.

It will be almost impossible to prevent the transfer of at least some of the weapons to the opponents of the peace process. Some will probably find their way to the black market, and there will probably be a few Palestinian policemen who will decide to aid the rejectionist organizations. The IDF has no solution to this problem; this issue will rest with the Palestinian police commanders and 'Arafat's aides. Well-informed sources promise that the Palestinian police force will not have heavy weapons or armored vehicles with offensive capabilities. They will have, at most, light armored cars equipped with machine guns.

The Jewish sector also poses serious problems to the IDF. The defense of the settlements in the Gaza Strip will be accomplished via the method of enclosed defense. Every bloc of settlements will constitute an independently defended area with separate headquarters, observation and guard posts, a circumferential electronic fence, and security roads. The Palestinian police force will not be permitted to enter these areas or the roads passing through them. IDF roadblocks along these routes will make sure they do not cross. Such roadblocks, manned both by IDF soldiers and the Palestinian police, will be the locations most prone to attacks, as has already been proved by the incident at the Kissufim roadblock, in which a Jew was stabbed by his two workers.

Another focus for friction involves the Arab workers employed in the hothouses of the settlements in the Gaza Strip and Jordan Valley. Even if vehicle traffic to and from the Green Line is banned, such vehicles will still be able to reach the roadblocks. An incident similar to the 'Afula car-bomb attack can recur at the Erez checkpoint or Kissufim.

Israeli settlements bordering on the Gaza Strip will be defended by an electronic fence and a security road which will be completed in one year. Until then, the area adjacent to the Green Line will be prone to infiltrations for purposes of theft and terror attacks. 'Afula-style suicide terrorists can still enter Israel. It is advisable, therefore, to facilitate the erection of this fence.

Meanwhile, until the fence is finished, the IDF will provide a temporary answer by beefing up its forces along the international border. A bypass road is being built near the Jericho enclave to provide the Jordan Valley settlements free excess from the northern part of the valley to the south and from there to Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. According to security elements, every settlement in the Jordan Valley—as opposed to the situation in the Strip—will receive a special "security package" designed to meet its particular needs.

Fortunately, not many extremist Jewish elements reside around the Jericho enclave. In the Qatif Bloc and in the settlements in the northern part of the Strip, there are some potential troublemakers. Some say they number less than 20 people; others claim there are more than 30 such troublemakers. The IDF claims it makes no difference. The method of defense for the settlements and settlers traveling along the roads of the Gaza Strip guarantees an almost total separation between the local population and the Jewish population. The settlers are

not supposed to have any contact with the Palestinian police force, unless a Jew decides to enter the autonomy area. IDF soldiers manning roadblocks will warn these Jews—settlers or Israelis from within the Green Line coming to the Gaza Strip or Jericho for business purposes—that the responsibility is theirs alone and will urge them to reconsider. If they identify professional Jewish troublemakers, they will probably not be allowed to enter the autonomy.

The 'Afula car-bomb attack proved again what we already know: There are no security means or peace arrangements that can stop a highly motivated suicide-murderer. The Gaza-Jericho First agreement, with its security arrangements, guarantees that the number of areas of friction between Israelis and Palestinians will be reduced, and this in itself is a significant contribution to the security of both sides.

Further on IDF Preparations

TA1904084494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is completing preparations for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreements. The General Staff believes the agreement will be signed on 5 May.

The evacuation and redeployment plan can be implemented in three different ways. It provides for a speedy evacuation lasting only 24 hours, one lasting a week, and a lengthy evacuation process that will last for up to three months. The Southern Command expressed satisfaction with the speed at which the preparations are proceeding and believes that it will be ready to carry out the plan on whatever date is determined.

The Defense Ministry recently completed contracts with all the Gaza Strip settlements for the security forces to enter the settlements and use empty structures there. The only Gaza Strip settlement with which no agreement has been signed is Netzarim, but the Southern Command believes that one will be signed in the coming days.

Senior Southern Command sources praised the cooperation with the Gaza settlement leaders and said that all the obstacles and misunderstandings that prevented the Army's entry have been removed.

Under instruction from Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, the IDF is currently concentrating its efforts on concluding the building of an electronic fence along the demarcation line. Eight contractors won a tender to build the fence, which is expected to cost 150 million shekels. The IDF believes the fence will be completed by early 1995.

Until the fence is completed, the IDF is deploying large forces along the new lines, and dozens of electronic measures have been set up to prevent movement to and from the Gaza Strip as long as there is no fence.

The Southern Command's engineering units and the IDF Logistics Branch are preparing the ground where the forces will be deployed once a decision is made to implement the Gaza agreement.

Shin Bet Head Warns of Chaos After IDF Pullout

TA1804073794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Apr 94 p 7

[Report by Smadar Peri and Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] "Chaos is expected in the Gaza Strip immediately after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] leaves the region and hands it over to the PLO." This assessment was made by the head of the Shin Bet at yesterday's cabinet session.

The Shin Bet head anticipates that during the initial period after the IDF pullout, we will witness internecine massacres among the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Arabs Wounded by IDF During Riots in W. Bank Camp

TA1904185794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Riots erupted tonight in the Qalandiyah refugee camp, south of Ramallah. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports that five Arab residents were wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops gunfire in the course of clashes between the residents and the security forces. According to local residents, the five were evacuated to a hospital in Ramallah. Two of them are in serious condition.

The riots erupted during a mourning procession the camp residents held in memory of a local young man killed by soldiers during disturbances last weekend.

Opposition Details Alternatives to Peace Process

TA1604144494

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0705 GMT on 16 April carries a 17-minute recorded report compiled by Hayim Hecht on the opposition's alternative to the government's peace process in response to Minister Yosi Sarid's charges in the Knesset earlier this week that the opposition intimidates the people but offers no alternatives.

A series of questions was posed to Binyamin Netanyahu, Zvulun Hammer, Refa'el Eytan, Rehav'am Ze'evi, and Gonen Segev—respectively the leaders of Likud, the NRP (National Religious Party), Tzomet, Moledet, and YI'UD (Independent and Democratic Israel).

Asked whether they would pursue the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip if they came to power at this point in time, Netanyahu says: "It is too early to tell. Obviously, agreements cannot be honored by one side only, while the other side violates them. The PLO has actually

violated all the commitments it undertook. Therefore, I will only be able to answer this question when I assume the job of prime minister."

Hammer's reply: "It is not easy for a government to violate agreements signed by previous governments, but it can halt future moves."

Eytan's answer: "I would not pull out of the Gaza Strip and I would not evacuate settlements. What I would do is give municipal autonomy to the Palestinians where they live. I would define the urban jurisdiction of Gaza, Rafah, Khan Yunus, and other large cities and give them absolute autonomy there; namely, to be in charge of internal security in the municipal area."

Ze'evi notes that "the withdrawal from Gaza will lead to a return to Gaza. Gaza cannot be sidestepped, because there is no solution for Gaza other than to be annexed to Israel." He goes on to say that "the only solution for Gaza, as well as for all other parts of western Eretz Yisra'el, is to become parts of the State of Israel without annexing its population."

In Segev's opinion, "the IDF's withdrawal must be completed at this point, if only for one reason: that the Gaza Strip is one of the few places on which there is enough consensus that it must be evacuated. The settlement of Netzarim, however, is a strategic point because the road leading to it separates Gaza from the southern part of the Gaza Strip and it is very important that we retain this area so as to keep this separation."

To the question whether the agreement with the PLO would be null and void, the Likud leader says: "I said a long time ago that this agreement became null and void the moment the PLO started to invalidate it; not because I do not like it—which I do not—but because an agreement that is not binding on the PLO is definitely not binding on us." Asked whether he thinks the United States would put up with his reneging on the agreement with the PLO and on the fact that the PLO would no longer be a partner to the dialogue, the Likud leader says: "I would not be withdrawing from any agreement. I am simply not prepared to honor any agreement unilaterally."

Eytan replies: "I cannot abolish an international agreement signed by the Israeli Government, but I can definitely reopen it."

Asked whether 'Arafat and PLO-Tunis would continue to be their partners in a dialogue, Netanyahu says: "Our partners would be elected in real and democratic elections held under meticulous supervision to make sure that people are elected legally and rivals are not eliminated. Our partners would be people elected from among the local Palestinian population, not people imposed by Tunis."

Hammer says: "The dialogue with PLO-Tunis is the root of all evil. The dialogue with the PLO is a mistake and, consequently, the PLO would not be a partner." He goes on to say that "although it would not be simple to renege on an international agreement, Israel must definitely insist on its demands from the other side."

Eytan replies: "No, there is nothing to talk about with the PLO because the PLO is not a state."

Ze'evi retorts: "No way! They are not partners to peace because they are not headed toward peace."

Segev says: "Being coy does not work any more. Those who say that this process can be surgically terminated are either being dishonest or are trying to make cheap marginal profits. In fact, my plan provides for the application of Israeli sovereignty on several areas in Judaea and Samaria. First of all, Israeli sovereignty should have been applied at once on all the Jewish settlements and the sparsely populated Arab areas abutting the Green Line because there is no reason not to."

To the question whether IDF (Israel Defense Forces) troops would remain in Jabalyah, Netanyahu says: "I have never objected to changing the IDF's deployment in Gaza, you never heard me say such a thing. I believe we can change our deployment and, in the case of Gaza, we can withdraw our troops to some other place. However, we cannot have a situation whereby our troops are not allowed to enter Gaza, as the government agreed to."

Eytan says: "In my opinion, the IDF should keep out of the refugee camps. If the local population wants to riot, let them riot. However, if we get accurate intelligence about a terrorist nest inside Jabalyah, we should stage an operation to strike at this particular nest. The autonomy would run its own affairs in Rafah, for example. It would need us for matters outside the municipal boundary, such as transportation, jobs, and water." Eytan goes on to say that he would discuss the establishment of such a municipal autonomy with "the man or council elected in Rafah," even if it is made up of Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) members. "They may run Rafah Hamas-style, but we would not allow terror to get out."

Asked how they envision the permanent agreement in Judaea and Samaria, Netanyahu says: "The alternative in this case is simple. We propose Arab autonomy—of the Palestinian Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—under Israel's sovereignty. What is the difference between the autonomy we propose and the government's so-called autonomy? The IDF, and the IDF only—not any army of terrorists—would guard the borders. The IDF would be exclusively responsible for security from the Jordan River westward."

Hammer replies: "The Jewish settlements could remain where they are, and the autonomy would be such that the Arabs would rule themselves and we would not rule over another people. I think this idea is feasible. Consequently, I think we should create a layout of noncontiguous Arab autonomy and contiguous blocs of Israeli settlements in whole districts so that they may live safely and defend themselves." Asked whether he would impose Israeli sovereignty over those blocs, the NRP

leader says: "I think the arrangement should be such that areas under Israeli sovereignty would really be Israeli areas for all intents and purposes, whereas the autonomy areas would be autonomous areas." Asked how Hebron would fit in such an arrangement, he says: "There must be a special arrangement in places where Jews live so that they may live fully under Israeli sovereignty."

Eytan notes that he would "definitely" consider applying Israeli sovereignty over Hebron and other areas in Judaea and Samaria "because such vagueness calls for international intervention."

Ze'evi states: "In my opinion, the 1.5 million Palestinians living in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza should go to the 21 Arab countries whose general territory is 500 times that of Greater Israel."

Asked how he would go about establishing the strong police force stipulated in the Camp David accords, the Likud leader says: "According to the Camp David accords, the strong police force would not be equipped with machine guns, armored cars, and helicopters—incidentally, most police forces in the world do not own such equipment, certainly not in such numbers—and would deal with civilian crimes and infractions. The accords say nothing about making such a police force subordinate to some kind of Palestinian government or creating what is for all intents and purposes a terrorist army." Netanyahu goes on to say that the police force he envisions, "would carry guns—the weapons ordinarily carried by policemen—and would be subordinate to Israel. What we are talking about is sovereign Israeli rule up to the Jordan River, the IDF being exclusively responsible for the area west of the Jordan River, and autonomy for the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; namely, a framework in which they run most areas of their lives through their elected representatives, but not areas over which the sovereign ruler would be in charge." Asked at which point Israeli sovereignty would be enforced on Judaea and Samaria, Netanyahu replies: "That is open to negotiation in the permanent arrangement period, which we probably would not get around to discussing in this term in office." Who would you negotiate with, Hecht asks him, and Netanyahu answers: "I would negotiate with the aforementioned elected Palestinians, as well as with other elements. I believe my proposal would enjoy much larger support in the Arab world than is apparent. I think that Jordan would favor the solution I am offering—autonomy rather than a state—and that Syria would also follow suit." Do you not think such a turnabout would lead to a prolonged standstill, Hecht asks him, and the Likud leader replies: "People say to me: Say the Syrians and the Jordanians accepted your proposal—I would like to add that the Saudis would also favor autonomy over a Palestinian state, which would be emerging in the heart of the Middle East and would also threaten them—but would the Palestinians? I say that the Arabs would accept the autonomy arrangement if they realize Israel will not agree to give the Palestinians an independent state."

Turning to the negotiations with Syria, Hecht asks whether these would be based on the premise of a possible Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights. Netanyahu replies: "I think such a question is not at all on the agenda, because the current promontory line is the line upon which Yitzhaq Rabin insisted in the 1974 disengagement agreements, and for a good reason: it provides us with a defensive wall." Asked what he would discuss with the Syrians, he says: "I would tell Hafiz al-Asad the following: There are issues we can agree and talk about, other than the strategic buffer that keeps the peace for me and prevents you from going to war with me. For example, I can discuss with you Syria's foremost problem, that of water, which is going to become a vital issue. I can talk to him about arms control, stopping the arms race, and the security arrangements we could make. I can talk to Syria about what it wants most: to be struck off the list of terror-supporting countries."

Hammer says: "The situation calls for a courageous decision. The question that everybody must put on the table is: Are you prepared to step down from the Golan Heights in exchange for an arrangement with the Syrians? I am not."

Eytan says he "would ask the Syrians: What would you give us in exchange for peace? What price would you pay for the peace we would be giving you?" He goes on to note that he would "under no circumstances whatsoever discuss a withdrawal on the Golan. If the Syrians want peace, let them give us another bit of the Golan Heights or of the area under their control." Asked whether he is aware of the fact that his positions actually mean he would have nothing to discuss with the Syrians, Eytan says: "Is our purpose to talk or is it to achieve something? Talking is a means to achieve a purpose. The national purpose, as I perceive it, is a Greater Israel with the Golan as an inseparable part of it in order to safeguard our security."

Ze'evi sarcastically replies: "I do not want to demand from the Syrians that they withdraw even more."

Segev's position: "As far as I am concerned, the Golan Heights are taboo. However, seeing that the right wing agreed to go to a referendum or to elections over this subject, it will be up to the people to decide."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 16 April adds that "opposition leaders have been discussing the establishment of a shadow government. Hammer and Eytan say that it is imperative that Rabin and his government be confronted by a shadow government, whose ministers would comment on current affairs and present an alternative policy to the public to illustrate the option offered by the right-wing camp. Netanyahu noted that the problem with establishing such a shadow government is the surplus of good candidates for the job of ministers, but he believes the proper formula will be found."

Commentary: Rabin 'Right Man' for Peace Era

TA1904140894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 94 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "His Hardest Hour"]

[Text] Had I been a silver-tongued orator I would have said that I have not come to praise Yitzhaq Rabin or to bury him, but to defend him. And these days, when facing his hardest hour as a national leader, he needs support. Overnight, his fortune changed dramatically. Only a year ago, he was considered by many the right man, in the right place, at the right time, and now he is slowly becoming the national doormat.

He is being attacked by politicians on the right and left for conflicting traits: He is too fast, he is too slow, he is too stubborn, he is too lenient, he is too strong, he is too weak. With the friends he has he does not need enemies. Shulamit Aloni says that he "radiates weakness." Hayim Ramon stabs him in the back by creating a split in Labor, Rabin's only fort. Yosi Sarid, who bends over backward to act as Rabin's spokesman, convinces MAPAM [United Workers Party] to help smash Labor's rule of the Histadrut. "My dear friend" Arye Der'i prevents SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] from joining the coalition. There are ministers whispering about their prime minister's "hesitancy and inability to make decisions." And there are those among them who confide about his "loss of control" and "conceding too much" to 'Arafat.

There has been a no less dramatic change in the attitude of the man in the street. Wherever he goes, Rabin faces heckling and calls of "cheater," "traitor," or "death to Rabin." For the first time since he became prime minister, public opinion polls show that almost 60 percent are dissatisfied with Rabin's performance. For the first time since he came to power, the polls show that Netanyahu, and even Peres, would beat him at the polls.

The procrastination in the negotiations angers what is called the "Peace Now" camp —as though the PLO, where disorder reigns, has no part in it and it is also Rabin's fault. The latest terrorist attacks have been exploited by the "national camp" as proof of his weakness—as though no Jewish blood was shed under the Likud. That is how a developing unwritten, and definitely unholy, pact between the opposition and those who are supposed to be Rabin's supporters and allies in eroding his leadership. While Rabin is struggling with the peace front, the right wing is becoming more popular, just as his allies are stealing the political base on which he depends.

I have not come to praise Rabin, but to express concern about the trend to bury him. Rabin is currently the only politician with the experience, and perhaps the ability, to take the big leap into the peace era. It is true that he is no Churchill, and a thick book listing his mistakes and faults can be written. Sometimes he is his own worst enemy, often he shows disdain for others, acting like a Johnny-know-it-all, and he justifiably gets whacked over the head from time to time for his arrogance and mistakes. Nevertheless, he is still the right man, at the right place, at the right time for two reasons with which it is hard to argue:

First, because he has a mixture of personal traits which serve well the path he is taking: On the one hand, political ripeness, which apparently comes with age, and which led him to understand that there is no future to the policy of pure might and breaking bones. He chose the path of peace arrangements in return for concessions on territories. On the other hand, he was and remains "Mr. Defense," which is expressed in his insistence that concessions must not harm Israel's security and the IDF's preparations for the battlefield of the future, which might be fought against far off countries like Iraq and Iran.

Whoever claims that giving up territories endangers Israel's security will find in Rabin a rare combination of a readiness to make concessions and concern for security. To my great regret, when we look around we find either those willing to concede all—for whom time is short—or those who preach security for its own sake. And both types are no alternative to Rabin.

Second, it is hard to find at present political alternatives to the path Rabin has taken. The opposition based on the Likud has still not come up with an alternative policy and has not cultivated a leader prepared to continue the path of peace. No immediate successor to Rabin has emerged inside Labor. It is doubtful whether Shim'on Peres, somebody with an outstanding political vision, could have brought Labor to power, received approval for the Oslo agreement, or talked with 'Arafat, had he been prime minister. There is nothing to be done, this nation, whether justifiably or not, does not trust Peres. Beyond these two "old timers," many political babes can be seen on the horizon, but not a single leader who can out perform Rabin right now.

He is easily miffed, he is indecisive, he is too arrogant, he is too indulgent, he is too stubborn—but in the political vacuum we are facing, there is no alternative to Yitzhaq Rabin. We must nurture him so that nothing happens to him.

Commentary Views Israeli-Jordanian Relations

TA1804112594 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Apr 94 p 11

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Why Pique the Iranian Giant?"]

[Text] Israel's warning to Jordan regarding Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activity there came as a surprise. Until now, the only Israeli threats to Jordan had come from those circles that consider the eastern bank of the Jordan River the alternative Palestinian homeland. For example, Ari'el Sharon used to take advantage of security incidents on the Jordanian border or terror acts planned at the headquarters of Abu-Jihad

[Khalil al-Wazir] in the Jordanian capital to threaten to "bombard the terrorist headquarters in Amman."

Has Israel under Peres and Rabin begun to adopt such an attitude? The answer is necessarily negative. What, then, motivated the surprising Israeli threat to Jordan at a time when Jordan is in the midst of restoring its status in the West Bank and on the eve of the ceremony inaugurating the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount? In the not too distant past, Israel supported such developments. Has Israel changed its stand, and is it no longer interested in an improvement in Jordan's status in the territories?

The answer to this question, too, is negative. The fact is that Israel has helped Jordan rehabilitate its banking system in the territories and cooperated with it in frustrating Palestinian attempts to set up their own central bank and issue their own currency. Israel is coordinating the new arrangements at the Cave of the Patriarchs with Jordan, not with the PLO.

It may well be that the affair should be taken at face value. A bleeding Israel could not tolerate a situation in which Hamas spokesmen brag about their murderous acts from well-protected offices in Amman and even threaten to continue them.

And yet, with regard to Israeli-Jordanian cooperation on several issues pertaining to the negotiations with the Palestinians, it is hard to ignore several unpleasant aspects of the relations between the two countries, which culminated in the Israeli warning to its eastern neighbor.

In general, the rehabilitation of Jordan's status in the territories comes at the expense of the Oslo agreements. The less glamorous the agreements seem, the stronger Jordan's status becomes.

Israel has noticed that Jordan has been establishing alliances with Palestinian circles that oppose the agreements. Amman has become a center of conspiracy and intrigue against 'Arafat. It is no accident that, for example, when the members of the PLO Executive Committee were summoned to Tunis last month, they preferred to meet in Jordan, thereby demonstrating that 'Arafat did not have a majority to ratify the Cairo agreements. Amman also hosted contacts the Palestinian People's Party and FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Federation] conducted with the Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Habash and Hawatimah. The contacts sought to establish a new Palestinian political apparatus to replace the alignment of forces that supported the Oslo agreements at the outset.

The contacts failed, but Israel resented them nonetheless. Behind them lies the fact that although Jordan supports the Oslo agreements in word, it is very worried by them and is working to thwart them in deed. This is the reason for Jordan's cooperation with Syria. Israel views the tightening Jordan-Syria relations as conflicting with the approach Israel would expect Jordan to adopt at this time.

Jordan recently considered replacing the government under 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali with a new government headed by Zayd al-Rifa'i. Al-Majali has been identified with the Madrid Conference and the peace process since its early days, while al-Rifa'i, more than any other Jordanian politician, is identified with Syria. It can be assumed that one of the reasons Husayn eventually decided against turning the domestic tables around was U.S. and Israeli pressure.

Nevertheless, the pro-Syrian line is beginning to have a negative effect on Jordanian policy. For example, in the previous round of talks in Washington, Israel expected practical discussions on the water issue, while Jordan surprised it by raising impossible demands, such as determining the borderline at this time. Husayn's demand that the blockade on the al-'Aqabah port be lifted as a precondition for Jordan's participation in the next round of Washington talks coincides with the rapprochement between the Jordanian and the Syrian attitudes. At the same time, it seems that the blockade business also attests to a Jordanian attempt to counterbalance its rapprochement with Syria by reserving the option of striking an alliance with Iraq in due time.

A very special development in terms of the relations between Israel and Jordan is seen in Israel's relations with the Gulf emirates. It is worth noting that while Israel sent a large delegation to Oman, Jordan sent a small technical delegation, practically adopting the Syrian policy of boycotting the multilateral talks. This is a major negative development, because Jordan played an important role in convincing Oman to accept an Israeli delegation. Despite tension between the Hashemites and the oil emirates of the Gulf, Jordan and Oman have good relations. In principle, Jordan's retreat from the peace process according to its original parameters stems from its submission to Syrian influence. At the same time, one should study Jordan's policy toward the Gulf for signs of Jordanian fears of Israeli involvement there.

While living under a heavy Iranian threat, the Emirates cannot trust Iraq or Saudi Arabia. It is an unknown fact that, until the Kuwait crisis, some of the Gulf Emirates trusted Jordan as the military force that could, to some extent, help them in the face of the Iranian threat. Jordanian officers trained and advised the Armies of the Emirates, and several Jordanian Army units were stationed in the Gulf. Jordan's role there came to an end when it chose to strike an alliance with Yemen and Iraq, thus losing the trust of the Emirates. Jordan is currently engaged in an effort to bolster its status in the Gulf. At the same time, the Israeli connection with the Emirates began to take shape.

Obviously, the Emirates will seek to examine the extent to which the peace process' successful completion can provide them with Israeli protection against the Iranian

threat. This is what lies at the very root of Iran's interest in doing as much damage as possible to the peace process: The real struggle is over security arrangements in the Gulf.

As will be recalled, the Gulf states rejected offers from Egypt and Syria to take part in security arrangements because they did not trust the two countries.

Jordan recently started exploring the option of reviving its old status in the Gulf, and along comes Israel as an undesired competitor. The way things look now, there appears to be an Israeli-Jordanian competition over the Gulf, but this may not necessarily lead to a crisis. The fact is that Jordan initially supported Israel's participation in the Oman conference. Should Israeli-Jordanian relations evolve into a joint confederation with the Palestinians, the emirates could be convinced that such a confederation is not against them.

Meanwhile, matters between Israel and Jordan have taken a negative turn, mainly because Israel is displeased with what it believes are Jordanian attempts to frustrate the negotiations with the PLO. Two negative landmarks are worth mentioning in this regard: One is the failure of Foreign Minister Peres' talks with King Husayn late last year. Husayn not only failed to speed up the talks, as Peres had hoped; he even held them up. The second is Jordan's evading pressure from Peres to convene the big "new Middle East" economic conference.

In November, Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan said in an interview to Beirut's AL-SAFIR that he felt humiliated by the White House public meeting with Peres, which had been forced on him. Peres became convinced that Jordan would not budge without Syria, but nevertheless, apparently still recommended putting pressure on the Jordanian-Syrian connection in order to remove an important bargaining card from al-Asad.

Another reference point was Husayn's failure to meet King Fahd two months ago when he had reason to believe that the Saudi monarch would receive him after the 'Umra pilgrimage, which he did not make during the hajj period. King Husayn was upset and returned to Amman deeply offended. He is convinced that the Americans, at Israel's behest, convinced King Fahd to rejected his outstretched hand.

Paradoxically, Husayn's humiliation might now promote his relations with Fahd. We should recall that the Saudi monarch had to settle with King Husayn for the Jordanian's support of Saddam during the Kuwaiti crisis. Now that he has offended him, Fahd will be better prepared to forgive Husayn. In the meantime, however, Husayn feels a need to get back at the United States and Israel.

The pressures and counter pressures endanger the peace process and the internal stability of the states in the region. The Israeli threat to Jordan revealed the basic dispute between Jordan and Egypt over the Islamic terrorist struggle.

We should note that compared to President Mubarak, who has come out openly against the Islamic extremists, King Husayn tries to appease them although they also threaten his regime.

Husayn has on several occasions come out against Islamic extremists and said that they are not true Islam, which is an enlightened and progressive religion. But the king did not hand down to the Jordanian Army orders like those Mubarak gave the Egyptian Army in its struggle against the Islamic extremists. The different approach by Jordan and Egypt on that matter makes it hard for Mubarak because Husayn presents a different example of how to treat the Islamic problem. We can assume that Mubarak tried to convince Husayn to adopt the Egyptian model of the struggle against the religious fanatics, but to no avail.

The Israeli threat forces Husayn to face a new challenge, to make a decision contrary to his judgment. Therefore, Israel must consider whether what is gained by the pressure might not be at Jordan's expense, since the struggle based on the Egyptian model might break up the Jordan vessel and sink it.

Israel is exerting tough pressures on Jordan: On the one hand, not to interfere with the implementation of the Oslo agreements, and on the other, not to sink too deep into al-Asad's strangling embrace. Both Israel and Jordan are therefore suddenly finding themselves competing for influence in the Persian Gulf, thereby annoying the Iranian giant, waiting on the other side of the sea.

Israel must not forget that despite the threats to Jordan that Iran is the real enemy of the peace process. The dangerous connection created between Iran and the Hamas leadership in Jordan is the real development but that is a different story.

Two Iraqis Cross Border, Request Political Asylum

TA2004090194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Two Iraqis crossed the border this morning where the Israeli-Syrian-Jordanian borders meet near Kefar Ruppin. They held up white flags and were taken in by soldiers from a nearby outpost. Immediately on arrival they asked for political asylum.

Amman Reportedly Not Included in Christopher Tour

JN2004092394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] An authoritative source said in Amman that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will not stop in Amman during his Middle East tour beginning next 24 April.

13th Ship Denied Entry to al-'Aqabah

JN1904094394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] Amman—A vessel carrying Canadian newsprint and unprocessed sanitary paper for the Jordanian market Monday became the 13th ship denied entry to al-'Aqabah this year by the U.S.-led naval force patrolling the Red Sea, shipping officials said.

The interception comes amid stepped-up contacts by Jordan to put an end to the damaging inspection of all al-'Aqabah-bound vessels as part of enforcing the 45-month-old international sanctions against Iraq.

Jordan, which is staying away from formal participation in the U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace negotiations until the blockade of al-'Aqabah is lifted, is exerting efforts with France, Britain and other countries in an effort to prevent further economic losses caused by the costly delays resulting from the Red Sea inspections.

It is estimated that Jordan lost $1.2 billion in extra charges levied by shipowners on freight to Aqaba because of the uncertainties over the fate of Jordan-bound cargo at the mercy of the inspectors backed by the U.S. navy.

Beyond the economic losses, Jordan has said, that the inspections and delays are deliberate harassment aimed at pressuring the Kingdom to make sweeping illogical concessions to Israel in the peace talks.

His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed this week Jordan's stand that the Kingdom's participation in the peace porcess was contingent on an end to the siege of Aqaba. He said that while Jordan remained committed to a negotiated peace in the Middle East, the Kingdom refused to be targetted for pressure and mistrust and "humiliated as a people" and still be expected to play a positive role in the peace process.

The King also said there were "positive" signs that the problem was being addressed. Diplomats here believe that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is reportedly expected in the Middle East in the last week of April, might bring with him an American answer to a proposal to replace the sea-based inspections with on-shore checks at al-'Aqabah by a neutral, international agency such as Lloyds Register of London.

Reporting on the latest interception, shipping officials said Monday that the Ikan-Seleyang [name as published], which is carrying 4,000 tonnes of paper cargo for Jordan, was intercepted Sunday evening by the naval force patrolling the Red Sea.

The vessel was boarded and inspected after an overnight wait at the Tiran Straits at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba and the inspectors ruled that they did not have accessibility to inspect not only the Jordan-bound cargo but also others stowed in the ship's holds, the officials said.

The Ikan Selayang was waiting at the straits as of Monday evening while the ship's agents and other concerned parties were in touch with the Bahrain headquarters of the U.S. Central Command, which is directly in charge of inspecting all al-'Aqabah-bound vessels, they said.

If the efforts did not succeed to have the ship proceed to al-'Aqabah, then it would head for Dubai, where the Jordan bound cargo would be unloaded, they said. This would mean another ship picking up the cargo from Dubai and ferrying it to al-'Aqabah, leading to a full sea-freight to be paid by the importers.

In turn, the importers will reflect their extra cost on the actual market prices of the product, and the consumer will end up paying the price for the inspection, the shipping officials noted.

The Ikan Selayang was the 13th ship to be blocked by the U.S.-led inspectors this year, compared with a total of 20 during 1993. More than 1,700 ships were closely inspected among 20,000 hailed over the radio and over 8,500 actually boarded, but until now no vessel was found to be carrying any "contraband" cargo headed for al-'Aqabah in violation of the sanctions against Iraq.

A ship carrying bagged detergents for Jordan was turned away on April 8 by the inspectors. The vessel had to proceed to another Red Sea port to rearrange cargo for inspections. It was allowed to proceed, and it docked at al-'Aqabah on Sunday, a 10-day delay resulting in tens of thousands of dollars in losses.

"The situation is getting out of hand," said Sufyan Muhaysin, manager of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association. "Don't think the country can take it anymore. The losses are mounting and importers are turning away from using al-'Aqabah as much as possible in order to avoid the high freight costs."

Shipowners apply extra charges of $1,000 per 40-ft. container and $500 per 20-ft. container and $15 to 20 per tonne of loose cargo bound for al-'Aqabah to offset their losses resulting from the delays and diversions to other ports. The cost of transshipment has to be borne by the importer if the ship was forced to offload Jordan-bound cargo at other ports.

Mr. Muhaysin said: "We hope Secretary Christopher would bring with him a solution to the problem. Otherwise, the situation is going to be worse."

Following King Husayn's March 28 notice to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council that Jordan was suspending participation in the peace process, the various U.S. departments involved in policy-making and enforcement were to have met on the proposal to move the inpections to the port of al-'Aqabah and to authorise Lloyds Register to conduct the inspections.

No details have emerged on how Washington was responding to the proposal.

Ship Carrying Tractor Parts for Iraq Denied Entry

JN2004081194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Apr 94 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman—The U.S.-led naval force patrolling the Red Sea has denied entry to another al-'Aqabah-bound vessel on grounds that it was carrying "unauthorised" spare parts for Iraq, shipping officials said Tuesday [19 April].

They said the Polish-flag Moniufzko, which had among its Jordan-bound cargo 30 tonnes of spare parts for tractors imported by the Iraqi government, headed for Port Suez to unload the consignment.

"The inspectors ruled that the U.N. approval for the spare parts dated back to November 1993, and as such it was no longer valid," said one of the officials.

The parameters that the inspectors apply to determine the validity of U.N. approvals were not immediately known. But, according to U.N. diplomats, there is little coordination if any at all between the inspectors and the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

U.N. Security Copuncil Resolution 687 of April 1991 exempts food and medicine as well as items related to food and medicine from the sanctions the world body imposed on Iraq in August 1990 following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

As such, spare parts for tractors are exempt since they are used in the agriculture sector to produce food. Exemption certificates are issued by the Sanctions Committee, which comprises 15 members of the Security Council itself.

The absence of coordination between the inspectors and the sanctions committee became apparent in several instances when the inspectors rejected the committee's certification saying they were forgeries.

The authenticity of the documents was established in all cases, but not before ships carrying cargo covered by them were turned away from al-'Aqabah, leading to severe losses to importers.

The Moniufzko, which is carrying nearly 500 tonnes of general cargo, most of it in 30 full containers, would return to al-'Aqabah after the "suspect" cargo is off-loaded at Port Suez, the officials said.

The Moniufzko, operated by a Chinese-Polish joint venture, was the 14th ship to be intercepted and denied entry to al-'Aqabah this year by the enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq patrolling the Red Sea. In 1993, they turned away 20 ships. [passage omitted]

Daily: Jordan Will Not Submit to U.S. 'Pressures'

JN1504123394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Apr 94 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Siege on al-'Aqabah Intolerable; We will not Submit to Pressures"]

[Text] Since it has become very clear that the U.S. siege on Jordan is both a political and economic siege, it is now Jordan's right, as His Majesty King Husayn said in an interview with Japanese Television yesterday, to adopt a decisive and just stand on this siege.

Since the U.S. Administration is practicing such economic and trade pressures and harassments on Jordan to force it to sign a unilateral agreement along with a declaration of principles, to normalize relations, and to lift the boycott of Israel—things that are harder for Jordan to do than anything else—then Jordan will have to freeze or suspend its active role in the peace negotiations.

The U.S. demands, which, in principle, are Israeli demands, totally contradict the constants of the principled Jordanian stand.

Jordan will not relinquish the constants of its principled stand, which, as His Majesty King Husayn said, is represented by seeking to realize a future in which a just and comprehensive peace prevails and in which the coming generations can exist under security, peace, and stability.

Jordan is committed to achieving a comprehensive solution on all tracks. It will not accept a unilateral agreement with Israel.

Jordan will not agree to sign a declaration of principles before finding solutions to the issues of borders, waters, refugees, and evacuees, as well as the issue of holy Jerusalem.

In his television interview, his majesty warned that issues concerning the siege of al-'Aqabah have reached an intolerable situation—one which we are trying to rectify. We are also trying to show the world that if this situation constitutes pressure, then we will not submit to such pressures.

Moreover, Jordan believes that the Arab League alone can discuss the issue of lifting the boycott of Israel, which is seeking normalization.

Since Jordan is committed to Arab League resolutions, it cannot respond to the demands of the U.S. Administration. Jordan will not accept to split the unified Arab position or parting from it even if this is to appease the U.S. Administration.

Jordan is beginning to interpret the unjust siege imposed on it as a hostile and vindictive measure that is totally unjustified.

However, Jordan, as the U.S. Administration itself knows and as His Majesty King Husayn said, will not submit to such pressures no matter how harsh they are. Moreover, Jordan will not at all accept blackmail.

Therefore, it linked the continuation of its active, effective, and influential role in the peace process to lifting the unjust siege on the Port of al-'Aqabah, removing the harm caused to its economy and trade, and stopping the serious losses it is suffering.

This Jordanian stand has many political meanings and dimensions which the U.S. Administration realizes before anyone else. This is especially so since Jordan, as the Austrian president said, is a basic pillar of the peace process. The collapse of this pillar will inevitably lead to the total collapse of the U.S.-initiated peace process.

Al-Majali on al-'Aqabah, Israel, PLO Ties

JN1804150494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 23

[By Shihadah Abu-Baqar]

[Excerpt] Amman, PETRA—Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has stated that Jordan's rejection of a unilateral peace deal is not the outcome of a state of weakness. Rather, it is the outcome of faith and strong Jordanian convictions that a unilateral deal cannot produce a durable peace. Worse still, a unilateral peace deal poses more danger than a state of no peace at all.

The prime minister added: Hence the firm Jordanian position and determination that the solution must be comprehensive, just, and durable. Besides, the solution must enjoy the support of all concerned Arab sides.

During a meeting with representatives of publications issued by political parties, Dr. al-Majali went on to say: The only viable and sustainable option is the peaceful solution that we are striving to achieve. Any other solution would remain vulnerable and pose greater threats. He indicated that Jordan has long been opposed to unilateral deals. That is why it has come under various kinds of pressure to make it abandon its principled stand toward the issue.

In this regard, the prime minister reaffirmed that Jordan's steadfastness in the face of pressures and its firm positions in this regard have earned it the respect of all, although its position might not necessarily be in the interest of all parties.

Answering a question on the successive Israeli Government attempts to export its crises; that is, on whether there is a link between the Israeli attempts to brand Jordan as a terrorist state and the blockade enforced against the Port of al-'Aqabah, the prime minister said: First, we would like to say that Israel's attempts to export its crises are unacceptable. However, as is well known, many world parties pursue this approach. But the important question in this regard is the following: Should we succumb to the Israelis' wishes regarding resolving their crises at our expense?

The prime minister answered this question, saying: We are completely opposed to this. This may be connected to the blockade enforced against al-'Aqabah, particularly if one is to relate interconnected developments. In general, Israel has nothing to do with the blockade enforced against al-'Aqabah. However, a connection might be found between the two if one is to employ a long-term perspective.

In the course of his answers to the questions posed by reporters, the prime minister noted that the al-'Aqabah siege is part of the Gulf war. The Gulf war elicited the blockade. This is how we see things at present. We have withstood the blockade enforced against al-'Aqabah for the past three years. If we are to make an estimate of the losses we have sustained as a result of this, we would say that this blockade has cost us almost $1.2 billion, a large amount in Jordanian market calculations. It is not a trivial matter that can be underrated.

The prime minister added: For our part, we have continued our efforts to explain this state of affairs through our contacts with various world states, such as Britain, France, and other states. Our purpose in this regard has been to explain the dangers that could be created by this state of affairs. In this regard, we have also held intensive contacts with the U.S. Administration and the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee. We explained to them the magnitude of our sufferings under the blockade. We hope to reach a solution to this problem soon.

In reply to a question on the progress made in these contacts, Dr. al-Majali said: It is widely known that ship inspections are currently conducted in high seas. The inspection process has something to do with numerous procedures regarding the storage of commodities inside ships. Because of the complications entailed in this, we have lost 24 shipping lines. Thanks to the contacts I have just noted, we have received an offer from Lloyds Register, a nonpolitical and non-profit international corporation, according to which its officials will be stationed in al-'Aqabah. When customs officials open cargo containers, Lloyds Register officials could examine the cargo to ensure that there are no violations of the sanctions. In other words, this would not be a full-blown inspection. Besides, such measures would not undermine national sovereignty. Of course, they [not further identified] sought to bring navy officers and personnel to the

port to conduct the inspections there. This is unacceptable. We have read reports that the government abandoned sovereignty over al-'Aqabah. Indeed, this is a regrettable development, because we cannot accept anything of the sort.

Responding to a question on inter-Arab coordination, and whether there is a unified Arab position regarding the next phases of the peace process to be conveyed to the U.S. secretary of state during his upcoming tour of the region, the prime minister said: It is truly regrettable that the events and crises which should have made the Arabs more tolerant and more cohesive have failed to do so. We feel that the Arab negotiator would have been in much a better position had the Arab stands been concerted and united.

Dr. al-Majali said: Jordan's position is constant. During the past and current crisis, Jordan's stand has remained the same. This stand will not be changed by any future crises. We absolutely believe in the importance of a comprehensive solution and of coordination. We work toward that end. But if coordination is not realized, this will not be our fault. We always offer coordination with our brothers—Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese, and other Arab brothers. Our objective is to end the estrangement so that the Arabs have a stronger negotiating position and so that we can attain our rights. We constantly offer coordination, but we do not have the strength or might which would enable us to lead others in this direction.

In response to a question on his assessment of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Dr. al-Majali said: Certainly, those relations are special, both morally and practically. But it is known that the other side has various factions with various political orientations. Naturally, our relations should be with a specific side. It is unreasonable that relations be established with various and different sides. Therefore, we have decided that our relations will be with the PLO, which is recognized by the Palestinian and Arab people and most world states. We exclusively deal with the PLO [among other Palestinian factions], exactly as we deal with any other sisterly Arab state.

The prime minister said: We support the PLO in whatever would make it capable of fully restoring its rights. Therefore, we hope that the political organization will enter the Palestinian territory and that a Palestinian entity will be established over the Palestinian territory. We hope that the Palestinian people will attain their right to self-determination, so that they will be able to decide on whatever type of relationship that they would like to have with us. Even in the name of patriotism, it is unacceptable that any formula for any future relationship be imposed on the Palestinian people while they are still under occupation. Just like us, they must be given the chance so that we together can decide on the formula of this relationship. This is especially true since past Arab unity experiences have ended in failure because they were imposed from above and were isolated from the grassroots.

The prime minister continued: Here in Jordan, we are sincerely open toward any kind of relationship with the Palestinian brothers and other Arab brothers in general. We are open to any kind of relationship. We also always seek to have strong relations with our brothers. Therefore, we believe that under the current circumstances, it is in the interest of the brother Palestinians and the Arab-Israeli negotiations in general that the Arabs raise the level of coordination among them. Otherwise, the future will be more serious than the past.

In this vein, Dr. al-Majali said: Apathy, disagreement, and disunity mean that the Arab nation will eventually find itself in a situation imposed upon it by others. On the other hand, accord, concerted stands, and closed ranks are the real guarantor of the Arab nation's interests. They provide the means with which the dangers of the designs that are being concocted against the Arab nation and its coming generations can be thwarted.

Regarding the issue of Jerusalem within the framework of the peace process, Dr. al-Majali said: The brothers in the PLO agreed to discuss the issue of Jerusalem in the second phase. I believe that Jerusalem is the major problem and, given the current state of Arab fragmentation, the results would not satisfy people. Hence, I sincerely call for abandoning these differences at the present stage because there can be no peace without Jerusalem. Arab reconciliation and unity of ranks are needed now.

Answering a question on the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people, the prime minister said: The PLO is 30 years old now. All Palestinians—opposition and others—now agree that the PLO represents the Palestinian persona; it is like any other government. The Palestinian issue is a major one and the Palestinian people exist inside and outside the occupied territory. Since it is difficult to hold elections so as to elect a Palestinian leadership, it would be in the general interest of the Palestinians to postpone differences. Following the establishment of a Palestinian entity the Palestinian brothers will be able to elect whoever they want.

Answering a question on the recent events aimed at undermining Jordan's stability and the sides that stand behind them, the prime minister said: External sides gave instructions or tried to convince certain people that the situation in Jordan is not right and that religious duty calls for changing this situation.

Dr. al-Majali said: Some of those who tried to carry out acts that are detrimental to the country's security were trained abroad to use arms. Some others are naive people, because the person who blows himself up while trying to plant a bomb somewhere is a naive person. He said: Those people exploited the fact that many sides want to see instability in Jordan for many purposes.

Asked why the views of the opposition are not highlighted in the official media, the prime minister said: The Jordanian Government takes into consideration

both views. The government has its official media and you have your media, and I do not believe we intervene in your affairs.

To reiterate the government's faith and endeavors to highlight conflicting views, the prime minister said that the government is determined to work continuously to listen to other opinions and even to open the official radio to it. [passage omitted]

Al-Masri on al-'Aqabah Siege, Peace Process

JN1504201094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1756 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Interview with Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Randah Habib in Amman, date not given; from the weekly "The Event" program]

[Text] [Habib] Jordan's resumption of its role in the peace process hinges on tackling the problem of the embargo clamped on al-'Aqabah Port. Why is there this connection, and do you believe this is justified?

[Al-Masri] Certainly, the Jordanian measure is justified, and maybe it should have been adopted before this time. This is because the losses inflicted on Jordan and the Jordanian economy are intolerable. Imposing such an embargo on al-'Aqabah is also unjustified. We do not believe such harassment at the Tiran Straits and the Port of al-'Aqabah is related only to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions against Iraq. We believe such an issue has other dimensions that might be related to the entire peace process. For some time now, since right after the end of the Gulf war, we have tried to reach an understanding with the U.S. Administration, and other concerned governments, about this issue. Jordan was very patient, but nothing was achieved. A certain measure had to be taken. This measure was the safest, the best, and the most logical, namely, to link our resumption of the peace negotiations with a solution to this issue.

[Habib] Does this mean that if Washington does not respond positively to this Jordanian condition, Jordan will withdraw completely from the peace talks, as the House of Representatives requested?

[Al-Masri] Jordan's policy toward peace is still a strategic one. I believe the al-'Aqabah issue will be resolved. I believe there is now a clear understanding of Jordan's position and the reasons behind Jordan's complaints. There are clear and strong signs, not only from Washington, but also from several Western capitals and from the UN Security Council, indicating that such an issue will be resolved soon. Resolving this issue will reflect positively on Jordan's stand toward the peace process. The peace process is a comprehensive process that is related to the entire region, not only to Jordan. I believe all the parties, the Arab and the international parties, understand the meaning and importance of peace, and the importance of the success of the peace talks, and consequently, of resolving the problems of the region and Jordan.

[Habib] At the outset of talk about the siege on al-'Aqabah, you spoke about pressure. Do you believe that through this, the United States seeks to drag Jordan into signing a peace treaty with Israel?

[Al-Masri] It is no secret that the United States, and Israel as well, wish Arab states would sign treaties or separate agreements. It is also not a secret that they would like Jordan to be one of the first states to make such a separate step. Over the past few weeks, the world listened to His Majesty King Husayn's statements in which he clarified Jordan's stand and said Jordan cannot conclude a separate deal, and that it does not agree to do so. Neither can it accept partial solutions, because this will neither be a just nor a comprehensive solution. Such ideas were put forth by some U.S. Administration officials. However, Jordan's stand is clear. I think it will not change.

[Habib] In your opinion, what are the alternatives which guarantee the implementation of the international embargo clamped on Iraq, without making Jordan pay for this embargo?

[Al-Masri] We, as Jordan, are not concerned about finding alternatives to the UN Security Council's, the international community's, or to any other side's embargo on Iraq. We are only concerned about the implementation of what is related to us. Regarding other things, let others find alternatives and solutions to them. At any rate, we comply with this embargo satisfactorily. However, the harassments of al-'Aqabah-bound ships do not just affect goods for Iraq, although they are legitimate goods and get the approval of the Sanctions Committee in advance, but also affect Jordanian commodities. There is proof and there are statistics that explain that the volume of Jordan's imports has not changed a great deal, particularly concerning banned imports to Iraq. Jordan's imports have not changed, the figures have not changed from what they were before the Gulf war. Consequently, it is clear that Jordan's trade with Iraq is not as big as those who impose the embargo on Jordan claim.

[Habib] What is the volume of the losses as a result of the embargo?

[Al-Masri] Hundreds of millions. I believe these losses reached some $2 billion that were primarily sustained by the Jordanian consumer.

[Habib] King Husayn has said, on behalf of Jordan, that none of the parties involved has proved it is up to the responsibility of facing the challenges of peace. Amman is also interested in this peace operation. To what extent can Jordan be held responsible for delaying the attainment of definitive agreements with Israel?

[Al-Masri] Jordan is one of the parties involved in the Arab- Israeli conflict. It is true that Jordan has a unique position and special leverage regarding the issue and the operation of settling the conflict. But, Jordan is only one of the parties involved. Therefore, every party should assume its responsibilities. As I have said, we believe in a just peace. We want to attain peace that recognizes rights, that safeguards Palestinian rights, and that will settle all the disagreements and the issues between the Arabs and Israel. When such disagreements and issues are settled, then Jordan and the other Arab parties will become ready to achieve the aspired objective of peace. However, it is impermissible to blame Jordan for obstructing this. If we want to achieve a just peace, it should be a comprehensive peace. Approaching one of the parties and bringing pressure to bear on it to attain a separate peace will not achieve the aspired goal and will not realize the strategy of peace, a peace that should be stable, just, and lasting.

[Habib] The 13 April deadline has passed and the Israeli Army remains in Gaza and Jericho. Palestinian-Israeli negotiations foundered. What does Jordan have to say about this?

[Al-Masri] Regrettably, the agreements that are being reached do not hold. Such agreements should be reached after more serious and careful study. The Arab-Israeli conflict and the settlement of the Palestinian cause on the Palestinian track cannot take place through general agreements and on large talking points. The agreement should proceed from the base upward. This means that understandings in advance should be reached on all the issues and disagreements, so the two parties will ultimately reach an agreement they will publicize. The opposite took place. Agreement was reached on major talking points and the agreement on details was left for later. The agreement foundered and we reached the present state of affairs. I believe that agreements should be respected, and the question of the 13 April deadline should have been met. Any delay, uncalled for obstacle, or procrastination will affect, and has actually affected, the credibility of peace and the possibility of moving further toward the other fronts and toward settling broader problems.

[Habib] Then is this what Jordan avoids by refusing to sign a peace treaty with Israel, that is, not to be in the same situation?

[Al-Masri] Yes, we said that we should agree on all points of disagreements in accordance with all issues and talking points so that we will eventually reach a general agreement that all parties speak about.

[Habib] What is your position on the violence and counterviolence that swept the occupied territories and Israel? What do these actions mean? What is their influence on the peace process?

[Al-Masri] What is taking place in the occupied territories is not unexpected. It is impossible to assume that security and political settlements will coexist inside and around Arab population centers on usurped Arab territories—not just occupied, but usurped and confiscated. We cannot expect the situation to continue normally, especially since the citizens there see that there are negotiations that do not lead to a substantial result. The presence of settlers inside and around Arab population centers will surely lead to violence from both sides, because the settlers are ideological settlers who believe that the land on which they build settlements is theirs, that it is the land of greater Israel, which they want to maintain. On the other hand, the Palestinians and the Arabs do not accept this logic, and they have to reject it. If a citizen has the means to defend—whether it is a peaceful or armed means—he will use it. This is what is going on in the occupied territories. I think this will not stop with the Hebron massacre or the bombs and booby-trapped cars. It will continue until this situation is corrected, and until there is an Israeli recognition that the occupied territories are really occupied, without the presence of Israeli enclaves or disguised Israeli sovereignty there. Until then, I think violence will continue from both parties.

As for the influence of this situation on the peace process, it has an impact and may obstruct the peace process and place it in trouble. It may prolong the process and prolong the pain before reaching any understanding—if we can say that the whole process will lead to an agreement and understanding.

[Habib] What are the alternatives to the peace process?

[Al-Masri] The alternatives are frightening and dangerous. The only alternative is the escalation of violence, pain, and instability in this region at a time when the world and all its regions are moving toward, and are concentrating on boosting, economic development, and entrenching security and social stability. In this case, this region, and probably Africa, will be the only explosive regions in this world.

[Habib] U.S. assistance to Israel and Egypt remain as they are, but the Jordanian share is being reduced. It was announced in Washington that only $7 million will be given to Amman. How do you interpret the U.S. position?

[Al-Masri] I don't think that the subject of assistance—whether economic, technical, or even military—is important to me or to Jordan. Probably, U.S. assistance in the past had some importance, but now I don't think it has any importance. Therefore, $7 million, or more, or less, will not affect the political line and will not give any lesson or sign. Even if this assistance is canceled altogether, it will probably be better.

[Habib] Don't you say that this meager assistance is one of the U.S. ways to pressure Jordan?

[Al-Masri] Seven million, even if you double it several times, will not affect the Jordanian economy or the

course of Jordanian policy. Therefore, I don't want to consider this measure to be of importance to Jordan. I want to fully ignore it.

'Observer' Status in Oman To Protest U.S. Blockade

JN1904121894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Jordan's chief delegate to Middle East multilateral peace talks on water sharing has said Jordan participated in the fifth round in Oman as an observer.

Dr. Mundhir Haddadin said Jordan's low-key participation was to protest the failure of American naval forces to lift the blockade of the Port of al-'Aqabah.

He said His Majesty King Husayn had made it clear that Jordan's participation in the fifth round of water talks would be at the observer level if inspections of Jordan-bound ships continued.

Dr. Haddadin said Jordan would also scale down its delegations to other multilateral talks if the blockade on al-'Aqabah persisted. He said the fifth round of talks on disarmament and regional security would be held in Qatar early next month, and talks on refugees and economic development would convene in Egypt and Morocco respectively.

Forty countries, including Israel, are attending the Oman round and Jordan is represented by the adviser to the minister of water and irrigation.

In the previous four sessions at the water conference, Jordan had participated with a six-member delegation.

Terms for Participation Defended

JN2004090494 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 23

[Editorial: "Jordan's Boycott of Negotiations Achieves Objectives"]

[Text] Jordan's absence from the work of the multilateral negotiations committees naturally affects the performance of these committees and the feasibility of issues under discussion.

Any talk about regional cooperation in any field in the post-peace phase will be meaningless without Jordan's participation for reasons connected with Jordan's position with all the meaning that this word implies, be it geographic, political, or historical.

Therefore, Jordan's stand to boycott the multilateral negotiations, on whose results the features of the post-peace phase will be drawn up, has started to make its effect felt and to drive home the message that methods of pressure and blockade on this country to facilitate the negotiating process will be of no avail.

It is certain that by sending only an observer to the Muscat multilaterals, and hinting that the same thing will be done in the upcoming negotiations in Doha, Cairo, and Rabat as long as the blockade continues on al-'Aqabah Port and the pressure is maintained, Jordan is demanding that those who say they want to establish a lasting peace and a broad regional cooperation in the Middle East reconsider their stands in light of the Jordanian position which links a positive Jordanian role in the negotiations with fair dealings and justice for both Jordan as well as the Palestinian and Arab peoples who came under aggression and injustice.

It is hoped that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's expected visit to Jordan during his upcoming tour of the region will carry with it a change in the U.S. stand on the blockade imposed on Jordan's lone maritime lifeline. The United State is aware of the extent of Jordan's commitment to its responsibilities toward international resolutions and its concern to promote the march of regional cooperation and peace provided that this is done without any encroachment on its national dignity, pan-Arab commitments, and its belief which was reiterated on all occasions; namely, that genuine peace is one based on justice, that it should be acceptable to people who will coexist with and defend it to pursue the interests of their future generations and draw benefits from it.

Based on such a premise, blockades and pressures will not lead to such peace but will make the possibility of realizing it remote and will prolong the suffering and pain in which the peoples of the region have been living for decades.

Two 'Religious Extremists' Reportedly Arrested

JN1704105894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 94, p 3

[Text] Amman—Police have arrested the leader and a member of a group affiliated with the so-called Arab Afghans after a chase and gunfight in Amman, security sources said Saturday [16 April].

They confirmed a report in the local press that a 38-year-old man identified as the head of the group described as religious extremists who sought to undermine national security and a member of the faction were detained on Thursday.

The sources identified the leader by his initials as W.I. and said his arrest was a major breakthough in investigations into a series of sabotage and attempted sabotage in the country over the past few months.

A car used by the two was intercepted after a chase and gunfight during which a policeman was wounded in the leg, the report said. The vehicle yielded an assortment of weapons, it said. Investigations were continuing.

Friday's arrests raised the number of suspects detained in connection with extremist plots in the past few

months to 35. Twenty-three of them were earlier expected to be put on trial in mid-April charged with plotting and carrying out subversion through bombings at public places.

But, with the new arrests, it is expected all the 35 could be put on trial together as a single group, the sources said.

Most of the suspects have confessed and reenacted the crimes and attempted crimes in the presence of prosecutors, security official said.

The trial was expected to start in mid-April, but investigations and gathering of evidence are continuing. "It might take some weeks before the cases are sent to court," said one source.

Details of the charges faced by others and the time of their arrests remained sketchy, but the sources affirmed that there was enough evidence to prove that most of them had plotted to destabilise security and create chaos in the country.

It was also not clear whether all the suspects were linked with each other. The sources said there appeared to be two or three small groups operating independent of each other, possibly under orders from a single faction or individual.

However, one of the threads that bound all was their background as "Arab Afghans"—volunteers who fought with the Afghan Mujahedeen against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan—of affiliation with them, according to the sources.

Apart from the 23 who are expected to go on trial soon, at least 10 others are reported to be members of a shadowy organisation calling itself "Jihad Islami Organisation," whose leader was arrested on Friday.

The group's members had carried out several hold-ups of taxi drivers and other places and were planning to rob banks to raise funds to buy arms before they were arrested, reports said.

Parliament members representing the Islamic Action Front (IAF) met with Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali last week with an appeal for the release of some of the detainees, whose number they put at 73.

According to the sources, some of those who fought in Afghanistan were detained for interrogation immediately upon their return home over the past months. It was not immediately clear whether prosecutors had been able to establish any link between them and those who were arrested in connection with the bombings and attempted attacks in Jordan.

IAF officials stressed that they were not intervening on behalf of any of those who were found to have been involved in subversion, but that many of the detainees were innocent of any crime and therefore should be released.

Most of the "Arab Afghans" are believed to be ex-members of the Muslim Brotherhood who broke away in protest against the moderate policies followed by the leadership, experts on Jordanian Islamic movements say.

"Although they are no longer active members, the Brotherhood has no choice but to intervene on their behalf to protect its own image with the ranks and file," said an expert and long-time observer of the movement.

Senior Brotherhood leaders have dismissed as baseless report in Europe-based Arabic-language magazines that some of the suspects were directly linked to the movement. The Brotherhood might even file lawsuits against those magazines for defamation, the leaders said.

'Afghans' Arrested After Clash With Security Patrol

PM1804111694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Patrol Clashes With Gunmen in Amman"]

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed security sources in Amman said yesterday that a clash had taken place between a Jordanian security patrol and two gunmen belonging to the "Afghans" organization. It resulted in their arrest and the confiscation of quantities of arms.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the clash took place a few days ago and that a member of the patrol was wounded. It was discovered that the two detained men belong to the group of 10 arrested last week on charges of forming a banned organization and planning to carry out terrorist actions inside Jordan. The sources said that the clash took place in a suburb west of the Jordanian capital, Amman, in Mahalah called Wadi al-Sir. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Arrests Linked to 'Afghans'

PM1804153494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Apr 94 p4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Arrest of 'Brotherhood' Leading Figures Linked to 'Jordanian Afghan' Groups"]

[Text] Jordanian security sources yesterday confirmed that there were links between the "Jordanian Afghan" groups recently arrested in connection with explosions in the Kingdom, and the Muslim Brotherhood which is officially active within the framework of the Islamic Action Front.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that the security authorities arrested two leading Muslim Brotherhood figures on suspicion of links with the "Jordanian Afghans" groups and seized a quantity of arms and explosives in their possession.

They said that among those arrested and interrogated were 'Abd-al-Majid Diyah, who was released on bail, and 'Abdallah al-Hashayikah, a leading Muslim Brotherhood figure suspected of links with an Afghan group.

The same sources said that the security authorities also arrested 'Abd-al-Majid al-Majali on suspicion of belonging to an Afghan organization after the discovery of explosives at a children's nursery run by the Muslim Brotherhood in al-Karak. They added that the nursery, which is attached to the city's Islamic Center, is managed by Muslim Brotherhood member 'Imad al-Sawalimah, who was also arrested.

The security sources stressed that "all the arrests, without exception, were made on the orders of the attorney general after the seizure of large quantities of arms and explosives." They added that the number of people detained in connection with the explosions in two movie theaters in Amman and al-Zarqa' as well as incidents of burglary and planting of devices discovered before exploding, has reached 70. Those against whom evidence is unearthed will be referred to trial.

According to government sources, some of the detainees have links with foreign Islamic organizations whose aim is to undermine Jordan's security and stability through explosions and theassassination of Jordanian figures. Asked about the reasons for the arrest of members of Fatah—the Revolutionary Council [FRC], they said that members of Abu-Nidal's organization in Jordan were arrested after the Lebanese judiciary authorities obtained evidence of the organization's complicity in the assassination of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah on 28 January in Beirut, and on the basis of that evidence "the organization is now considered a terrorist organization." They added that "members who, in the view of the attorney general, had close links with the organization were placed under precautionary restrictions and the rest were released."

The Islamic Action Front issued a statement the day before yesterday criticizing the security authorities and accusing them of "practices and violations which are worrying to the Jordanian public and which have revived the specter of martial law in the guise of democracy."

Iraqi Ba'th Party Expected To Send Delegation

PM1904142494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Apr 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "At Baghdad Embassy Suggestion, Jordanian Parties Invite Iraqi Ba'th Party To Send Delegation From Its Leadership To Visit Amman"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed sources announced yesterday that Jordanian parties have invited the Iraqi Ba'th Party Regional Command [BPRC] to visit Jordan at the nearest opportunity to hold party, political, and mass dialogues and rallies in Jordan.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Islamic Action Front [IAF] party, the Pan-Arab Action Front [PAAF] party, and the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] handed the invitation to Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nuri al-Wayyis.

The sources confirm that a meeting was held at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman last week between the Iraqi ambassador and representatives of the three parties. The Iraqi ambassador expressed during the meeting his wish that the parties' representatives make a gesture and invite the Iraqi BPRC to visit Jordan.

In the light of that, the Iraqi Ba'th Party is expected to accept the invitation. The three parties express clear sympathy with Iraq's political stances. The Iraqi Embassy has been eager to develop cooperation between these parties and the leadership of the Ba'th Party in Iraq.

The IAF party and the PAAF party announced in the past the establishment of a joint coordination command between them, and they now take unified political and party positions on all issues raised. The Jordanian ASBP joined them later.

Three Parties Meet, Urge Lifting Embargo on Iraq

JN1904193294 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 19-25 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, and the Jordanian Arab Socialist Bath Party have issued the following statement:

A joint meeting was held at the Islamic Action Front Party's headquarters. It comprised representatives of these parties to discuss the tragic situation in fraternal Iraq under the unfair blockade imposed by the forces of tyranny and hegemony led by the United States. The conferees agreed on the following:

1. Calling on Jordanian parties to hold an urgent meeting in order to discuss ways to activate popular efforts, so they will play their role in lifting this unfair blockade;

2. Inviting a delegation from the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to visit Jordan in order to hold consultations on the measures that can be taken to end this mean blockade;

3. Continuing the consultations and coordination among the three parties on various Jordanian, Arab, Islamic, and international issues.

Lebanon's Birri Concludes 5-Day Visit, Departs

JN2004105094 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Birri has left Amman, concluding a five-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with his majesty the king and a number of senior officials. Mr. Birri also held talks with

the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on ways of reviving pan-Arab solidarity and coordination.

Daily Views King's Address on al-Aqsa Renovation

JN1904184494 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Apr 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The No's of King Husayn"]

[Text] For the first time since the Zionist usurpation of Jerusalem—the jewel of Arab and Islamic cities—in 1967, Amman and Jerusalem yesterday met in a wonderful spiritual meeting under the auspices of His Majesty King Husayn, descendant of the Hashemites, who has great spiritual and historic memories in his heart and mind of the holy city, following the steps of the Hashemite family.

Yesterday's awe-inspiring historic celebration in Amman and Jerusalem on the occasion of completing the third Hashemite-sponsored renovation of al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock was an occasion for the Arabs and Muslims to contemplate the difficult situation our nation is facing. This situation calls on everybody to reconsider the current deterioration in relations and seek to restore solidarity and reconciliation with the conscience, the mind, and the soul.

His Majesty King Husayn's call during the pan-Arab speech he delivered on this blessed historic occasion was amazing. He called on the nation to rise up to save Jerusalem and stand against every siege, oppression, and alienation.

Within earshot of all Arabs and Muslims, leader King Husayn uttered three no's which sum up the reality of the nation's will and reflect the feelings, sentiments, and aspirations of the masses in every Arab and Islamic nation. No to any solution that does not restore Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem. No to any solution that does not secure the historic and legitimate rights of the people of Palestine on their chaste national soil. And no to any peace that is not acceptable to the future generations—a peace that they will not protect and defend.

It is no secret to the observer that the three no's His Majesty King Husayn uttered are constants of the Jordanian policy our country has been following in all its political activities since the Israeli occupation of our territories.

His Majesty King Husayn's donation to cover the expenses of the third Hashemite-sponsored renovation of al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy Dome of the Rock and his donation to rebuild the pulpit of Salah-al-Din al-Ayyubi stand witness to the great prestige the Holy City occupies in the heart and mind of his majesty the king and the Hashemite family. As King Husayn said yesterday, the Hashemite's association with Jerusalem "stands above the fray of political ploys and Earthly greed." Therefore, the leader made a new Hashemite pledge when he said: "We will keep our pledge and we will continue to defend the nation's rights in it so that it will return as an Arab and Islamic city in accordance with the international legitimacy."

Immunity of Iraqi Diplomats To Be Lifted

NC1904141994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Appeal Public Attorney Munif 'Uwaydat today announced that the Lebanese judiciary has lifted the diplomatic immunity of the two Iraqi diplomats accused of assassinating Iraqi oppositionist Talib al-Suhayl. He pointed out that now that the diplomatic ties between Iraq and Lebanon are severed, the two do not enjoy diplomatic immunity. Speaking to reporters today, 'Uwaydat added that the two detained defendants will be tried by the Lebanese judiciary.

[Paris AFP in English at 1317 GMT on 19 April, in a related item reports: "The Lebanese Foreign Ministry notified Iraqi charge d'affaires 'Awad Fakhri of Lebanon's decision to cut ties with Iraq and told him that he had 72 hours to leave Lebanon along with the embassy's other diplomats.

["Fakhri said his country still considered that Khalaf and Kazim were protected by their immunity, which Baghdad refused to lift after a request from Lebanon last week. Baghdad has denied any involvement in the murder.

["Lebanon must respect the Vienna convention," which regulates diplomatic ties between states, he said after leaving the Lebanese Foreign Ministry. He declined to make other statements."

[The AFP report continues: "Lebanon is also demanding that Iraq hand over two other suspects—embassy guard Hadi Hasan who is believed to be the one who pulled the trigger and consul 'Ali Darwish—who have sought refuge inside the embassy.

["Police reinforcements have been deployed since last Wednesday around the compound in the residential district of al-Hazmiyah south of Beirut."]

Buwayz Comments

NC1904133494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has notified Iraqi Charge d'Affaires 'Awad Fakhri of the cabinet's decision to sever diplomatic ties with Iraq. Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan communicated the decision to Fakhri at 1230 today.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz commented on the circumstances surrounding the cabinet's decision at an emergency session yesterday to sever ties with Iraq and close the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut, in view of the Iraqi Government's refusal to hand over certain individuals involved in the assassination of Iraqi oppositionist Talib al-Suhayl al-Tamimi.

More details from our Foreign Ministry correspondent Khalil Fulayhan:

[Begin recording] [Fulayhan] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz commented on yesterday's cabinet decision to sever diplomatic ties with Iraq, close down the Iraqi Embassy in Lebanon, and deport its diplomatic staff within 72 hours. Buwayz said:

[Buwayz] You may know that a number of people from the Iraqi diplomatic mission are involved in the assassination that took place in Beirut. A number of those involved in the assassination have been arrested, including certain individuals who are not members of the Iraqi diplomatic mission. It is a clear case of a premeditated crime.

On the basis of the above, and with the refusal of the Iraqi Government to hand over the remaining culprits and lift diplomatic immunity from some of the embassy staff so that justice may take its course, the Lebanese Government decided to sever diplomatic ties between Lebanon and Iraq and declared the members of the Iraqi diplomatic mission personae non grata. The government left it to the Lebanese judiciary to decide whether diplomatic immunity remains valid in such cases. A number of the defendants, we must remember, have confessed that they carried out this operation with direct orders from the Iraqi intelligence service but without instructions or direct orders from the head of their mission in Lebanon.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, who will take care of the Lebanese interests in Iraq?

[Buwayz] There are diplomatic procedures that apply in this case. We in the Foreign Ministry will make a decision in this regard soon.

[Correspondent] How many Lebanese work in Iraq? Is it 12,000?

[Buwayz] No. The official figure speaks of less than 1,500.

[Correspondent] What measures will you take if Iraq refuses to lift the immunity of the two other defendants?

[Buwayz] As I said, we left it to the Lebanese judiciary to decide whether diplomatic immunity remains valid in this case. This is a clear case. The defendants have made detailed confessions stating that they received orders from the Intelligence Service, directly from Baghdad. It is a case of flagrant and premeditated murder.

[Correspondent] Regarding the duration of the detention, how long can you keep the culprits in temporary custody?

[Buwayz] Until the investigating magistrate makes the appropriate decision in the case.

[Correspondent] How about the individuals who are holed up in the Iraqi Embassy, do you want them [words indistinct]?

[Buwayz] No. We have made a clear request for the nondiplomatic persons who are currently in the embassy to be handed over.

[Correspondent] Is there anyone other than the consul and ....

[Buwayz, interrupting] There are still two people wanted by the Lebanese authorities.

[Fulayhan] Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, Foreign Ministry secretary general, summoned Iraq's Charge d'Affaires to Lebanon 'Awad Fakhri today and notified him of the cabinet's decision. This is Khalil Fulayhan speaking to you from the Foreign Ministry. [end recording]

Iraqi Envoy Comments

NC1904143394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Iraq was officially informed today of the Lebanese Government's decision to sever diplomatic relations between the two countries and of the order to the accused diplomats to leave Lebanese soil within 72 hours. More details from this dispatch by Khalil Fulayhan, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent, from the Foreign Ministry:

[Begin recording] [Fulayhan] Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, summoned Iraqi Charge d'Affaires 'Awad Fakhri and informed him of yesterday's cabinet decision to sever diplomatic relations between the two countries and to close the Iraqi Embassy in al-Rayhaniyah neighborhood of al-Hazimiyah. He also asked him and the other members of the diplomatic mission to leave Lebanon within 72 hours. Following the meeting, which lasted 75 minutes, the Iraqi diplomat said:

[Fakhri] We have been informed of the cabinet decision. We also conveyed our Foreign Ministry's stand that we are committed to all international agreements and charters, especially those concluded between us and Lebanon.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you tell us when you will leave?

[Fakhri] The statement was clear—by Thursday, within 72 hours.

[Correspondent] Starting today or yesterday?

[Fakhri] What difference does it make?

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]?

[Fakhri] The Foreign Ministry will make the announcement [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Who will look after Iraqi interests in Lebanon?

[Fakhri] The Lebanese people will take care of our interests in Lebanon. [end recording]

Israel's Lubrani Reportedly Meets Church Bombers

NC2004080294 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 7

[Text] According to exclusive reports to AL-SHIRA', Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, met in Sydney recently with two defendants accused of bombing Sayyidat al-Najat Church. The same reports indicated that Lubrani assured the defendants about their fate, stressing that Israel will not abandon them.

Hizballah Criticizes Israeli Presence at Oman Conference

NC1904183494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Hizballah issued a statement today saying that the participation of an official Zionist delegation in a conference on water held in Oman is a serious development that proves the Arab regimes' failure to observe the boycott of Israel. The statement notes that the willingness to cooperate with the Zionist enemy, which engages in the most brutal and criminal practices against the Lebanese and Palestinian people, is tantamount to encouraging such aggression and acquitting Israel of its dreadful crimes.

Hizballah warned that such cooperation will undermine all chances for regaining the usurped rights.

Nasrallah on Media, Voice of Light Radio

NC2004075094 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 Apr 94 p 3

[Excerpts] The [Hizballah-backed FM transmitter] "Voice of Light" yesterday commemorated the first anniversary of the death of its director general, Dr. Hasan al-Qila. The ceremony, which was held at the Rawdat al-Shahidayn School, was attended by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, Deputies Muhammad Yaghi and Muhammad Barjawi, Dean of Sciences College Dr. Muhsin Jabir, and a number of Hizballah and Islamic resistance officials.

Yusuf Nur-al-Din, current director general of the Voice of Light, delivered a speech in which he underlined the feats of the late director general. He criticized the cabinet's decision to ban the broadcast of newscasts and political programs. [passage omitted]

Hasan Nasrallah said that the Voice of Light is not a militia radio, it is the voice of the honorable resistance. This radio has never been a tool to sow sectarian sedition. It is the voice of national unity, amity, and knowledge.

He added: We regret that on this anniversary we have to mourn the loss of part of the freedoms in this country. The Voice of Light could be silenced for some time but it will certainly come back. This kind of voice can never be silenced, and nobody can silence the voice of right and justice. What we have heard so far of claims and pretexts concerning the procedures against the audio and visual media are not convincing. If the Lebanese authority had enough courage to dissolve the Lebanese Forces-Israeli party, it can silence the voices that are considered Israel's tools.

The Hizballah secretary general said that the deliberations that took place during the recent cabinet's session were theatrical, stressing that such maneuvers could possibly be made in other countries but here it is difficult to fool anyone.

Nasrallah urged the Lebanese to adopt a unified stance to curb this threat and to advise the authorities that the Lebanese people cannot accept such procedures that could harm peace.

Envoy Comments on Kurdish State, Water Situation

NC1604110794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Ankara, 16 Apr (MENA)—'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i, Syrian ambassador to Turkey, has stressed that his country is against the establishment of an independent Kurdish state in northern Iraq, and that Syria will engage in methods other than diplomacy to prevent this from happening.

In an interview with a MENA correspondent in Ankara, al-Rifa'i pointed out that Iraq must be united as any other Arab country. He noted that although the Syrian and Iraqi governments have differences, the establishment of a separate state in northern Iraq is another matter. The differences, he added, will not prevent Syria from using its means to stand alongside the Iraqi people in the face of this conspiracy. He also stressed his country will not use the Kurdistan Workers Party, which is outlawed in Turkey, as a source of pressure on Ankara to reach a water sharing agreement.

Al-Rifa'i pointed out that Syria has as much right to the water in the Tigris and Euphrates as Turkey does, adding that the Syrian Government still wants an agreement among Syria, Iraq, and Turkey on the Tigris and Euphrates water, because the present situation cannot continue. He said his country is not against Turkey's selling water to Israel, but it prefers for Ankara to play the water card to put pressure on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said during his recent visit to Turkey that Israel is a democratic state. Ambassador al-Rifa'i said that these remarks are meant to pacify the Turkish people and to convince them that Israel is a peace-loving country and that it is the Arabs who are rejecting peace.

The Syrian ambassador stressed that Peres lied, since more than 12,000 Palestinian prisoners are locked up in Israeli jails. He added that Israel has failed to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement on time.

Damascus Reports Lebanon's Severance of Iraqi Ties

JN1804205894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut—The Lebanese Council of Ministers has decided to sever Lebanon's diplomatic ties with Iraq, because the latter refused to lift the diplomatic immunity of two Iraqi diplomats the Lebanese authorities charged with assassinating Talib al-Suhayl, an Iraqi opposition figure.

This was announced by Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samahah at the end of a session held by the Council of Ministers tonight. Samahah added that Lebanon has given the two Iraqi diplomats 72 hours to leave the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

RSA Official Visits, Discusses Future Relations

JN1904175194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Apr

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Derek William Auret, head of the Africa and Middle East Desk at the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, the foreign minister received a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from South African President Frederik de Klerk. The foreign minister also received another message from Mr. (Korreth), head of the judiciary council in South Africa [title as heard], in which he invites President Hafiz al-Asad to take part in the celebration scheduled to be held on 10 May 1994 to inaugurate the new South African president.

The talks dealt with developments in South Africa after the abrogation of the apartheid system and the racial segregation laws, and the establishment of a democratic system guaranteeing equality for all citizens in accordance with the new constitution. The talks also dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict and developments in the peace process. In this regard, the two sides' viewpoints were in agreement on achieving a just and comprehensive peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon.

Auret said a peaceful solution can be achieved through the continuation of the peace talks, and not through acts of violence, deportation, and the Israeli authorities' demolishing of Palestinian houses in the occupied territories. He stressed that the stands of South Africa will be balanced, and that henceforth, its old relations with Israel will not be at the expense of its new relations with the Arabs.

The talks during the meeting also dealt with the future prospects of the relations between Syria and South Africa after the abrogation of apartheid, and in light of lifting the Arab and international embargo on dealing with South Africa.

The foreign minister and Mr. Auret expressed their mutual concern about establishing good relations between the two countries in the political, economic, trade, tourist, and other fields. Within this framework, the two sides agreed to resume contacts between the two countries until diplomatic relations between them are established.

Attending the meeting were Raslan 'Allush, assistant to the foreign minister, Dr. Hani Habib, director of the

Economic Department, and Mustafa al-Hajj 'Ali, director of the Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Minister Reacts to Rabin's Withdrawal Statement

JN1904094894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman said today that the departure of the colonialists from the homeland was the result of rebellions in various parts of the country and our people's heroic struggle for a quarter century until they regained their freedom and independence.

In an educational seminar held for its students, by the Higher Institute for Political Science, Salman spoke on the firm principles of the Syrian policy under President Hafiz al-Asad's historic leadership in terms of domestic construction and political and economic multiplicity, and in terms of the Arab solidarity and strengthening the Arab people against the cultural invasion to which they are being exposed.

Salman spoke about the peace process and its repercussions and on obstacles that are preventing its progress. He said: Syria supported the peace initiative because it emphasized the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Syria's insistence on a comprehensive solution stems from its firm pan-Arab principles. This was manifested at the Geneva summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Bill Clinton where Al-Asad represented the Arabs' stand and desires and the U.S. Administration announced its intention to realize comprehensive peace on all tracks of the conflict.

The minister refuted the motives of the tendentious campaigns of Israel, the Zionist Lobby, and the media that are sympathetic to them. He said the aim of these campaigns is to change the firm and pan-Arab position of Syria, whose Arab and international role has grown under President al-Asad's leadership. This has been voiced by the Arab media which are daily reiterating that Syria is the symbol of the pan-Arab struggle and the honest helmsman of the Arab ship sailing toward the future.

At the end of the meeting, Salman answered questions by students participating in the seminar.

Answering a question, Salman said: I hope Rabin's announcement on withdrawal from the Golan will be free of land mines which we have always encountered in every session of talks in which the principle of withdrawal from all the occupied territories in exchange for peace was discussed.

Press Dismisses 'Limited' Israeli Withdrawal

JN2004073194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0440 GMT 20 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH says that it is not new for Israel to heap accusations on Syria to tarnish its stands. AL-BA'TH says that most Israeli accusations are not worth considering or responding to. This is because to respond to some of these accusations, which are within the context of lies and deception, requires the reassertion of unequivocal facts. Such facts cannot be obliterated, irrespective of the allegations fabricated by Israel. A sample of such accusations is that whenever the national Lebanese resistance deals a painful blow to the Zionist occupation troops and their agents, Israel starts leveling accusations amounting to blatant threats against Syria.

AL-BA'TH adds: Although Syria's stands on the peace process are constant, principled, and clear, the Rabin government's accusations are ready and repetitive, occurring whenever Syria makes it clear that it will not respond to Israel's terms and peace proposals which guarantee nothing but Israel's interests and ambitions.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Israel's accusations against the resistance in Lebanon are part of the pressures being exercised against Lebanon in the course of the peace process. Moreover, the scope of such accusations is often expanded to include Syria by alluding to alleged Syrian pressures against Lebanon.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Facts on the ground will remain stronger than any attempt at falsification. Lebanon's right to resist the occupation is legitimate. Lebanon needs nobody to tell it what to do in this regard or to interfere in its affairs. Lebanon is exercising a natural right. It adopts stands that maintain its rights and sovereignty, inspired by its national and pan-Arab interest. The voices that have joined Israel and begun to accuse Syria of interfering in Lebanon's affairs are not worth responding to or commenting on. Under its legitimate leadership and cohesive national unity, Lebanon will remain greater than accusations. It will not be harmed for opting for brotherly relations with Syria in the interest of the two sisterly countries.

TISHRIN comments on Israeli proposals in southern Lebanon and the future of the Golan Heights. It says: These days, the Israelis are talking much about proposals and plans to activate the peace process regarding both southern Lebanon and the Golan. However, the Israelis have failed to reveal the content of their proposals, and whether they are based on full withdrawal, or, like previous Israeli proposals, are a new attempt to circumvent UN resolutions.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria's position in this regard is clear and unmistakable. Syria is eager to expedite and activate the peace talks. At the same time, Syria adheres to the Madrid conference formula and the constants of a

just, comprehensive peace. Syria will not relinquish one inch of the Golan, nor will it ever bargain over its undeniable right to restore it.

TISHRIN contends that Syria does not need papers to activate the Syrian track. As the Israeli rulers are well aware, Syria's stands are based on right, justice, international legitimacy, and on the fact that only the full removal of the occupation from the Arab territories is the path that will lead to a successful, durable peace. As long as Israel is far from that, then it is only fair to say that the national Lebanese resistance to the Israeli schemes in southern Lebanon and confronting the Israeli policy of aggression, expansion, and repression is legitimate. This is because resistance targets the occupation and seeks to defend southern Lebanon against the aggressive Israeli control.

TISHRIN stresses that any Israeli talk about partial or limited withdrawals and about proposals that do not speak of full withdrawal and terminating the occupation of southern Lebanon and the Golan are yet another rejected and denounced Israeli attempt to maintain the occupation. So are phased solutions. The allegation that what is urgent is to arrive at security arrangements is an Israeli illusion.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Israel would be gravely mistaken if it believes that it will be able to follow a policy of blacking out facts. Withdrawal from the entire occupied territories needs no interpretations. It needs only a sincere desire to implement the resolutions of the international legitimacy. The road to peace starts with full withdrawal. Only such a withdrawal will lead to the achievement of peace.

Israeli Occupation Seen as Cause of Hadera Attack

JN1904194594 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 14 Apr 94 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Occupation Is the Cause"]

[Text] Israel quaked again for the second time in less than a week as a result of the Hadera operation carried out in the heart of the Zionist entity near Tel Aviv. This proves that through measures of repression, terrorism, and siege, the Israeli occupation forces cannot guarantee security and stability in the 1967 occupied territories or in the 1948 territories. This shows Israel's propaganda that its plans and proposals can guarantee the achievement of peace is mere illusion and imagination. Israel is reaping the results and effects of its policy of continued occupation. It is reaping what it has planted in lies, delusions, and claims. All these confirm that partial agreements and separate deals cannot make peace or lead to security and peace, but to further disturbances and confusion, and to the escalation of violence and bloodshed. Developments and facts in the occupied territories prove Israel has fallen into the impasse of fragile and destructive settlements. It caused the situation to explode due to its adherence to occupation and disregard of the just and comprehensive solution, and as a result of its maneuverings and delusions to circumvent the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Certainly, the situation can expect to see additional grave dangers and damaging repercussions if Israel continues its repressive and terroristic policy, and its rejection of the pillars of a just and comprehensive peace. This is because occupation, or any part of it, is the problem. In fact, it is the major obstacle to achieving security and stability in the region. Undoubtedly, the full removal of the occupation of the Arab territories in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, southern Lebanon, and Golan, is the true ground for an honorable, lasting, and successful peace. As long as Israel continues to avoid this, it will be responsible for the cycle of violence, and for the anger, indignation, and explosions in the occupied Arab territories. These are impossible to bridle or stop by continuing the occupation.

Had Israel been really concerned about security and stability, it would have immediately managed to learn from and to comprehend what is taking place by announcing it is ready to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, to respond positively to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace, and to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy, the Madrid formula and principles, particularly the land-for-peace principle. However, instead of doing so, it maneuvered, cheated, and did its best to drag the Palestinian side into making further concessions leading to partial agreements and separate secret deals. The result of this was that the Oslo agreement's repercussions, and threats to and relinquishment of the Palestinian people's rights have reflected negatively not only on the Palestinians who signed the agreement, but also on Israel itself. This is because the Palestinian people discovered in this agreement full relinquishment of their national, legitimate, and political rights, flagrant violation of their just demands, and full liquidation of their cause, for the sake of which they have been waging a struggle so it will continue to live as a cause of a people striving for liberation and salvation from the yoke of occupation, and for living in peace, security, and stability.

Therefore, under no circumstances should one ask the victim to ignore its killer. After all these sacrifices and confrontations, the Palestinian people should not submit or yield to capitulatory deals, or accept the continuation of occupation. The fact is that all parties have participated in the peace process knowing it is comprehensive. Otherwise, the Madrid conference would not have been convened. So, we should go back to the bases of the Madrid formula, to facts that have become axioms, and to established facts stressing the need for a just and comprehensive peace, especially since this is the only means to prevent disturbances, end setbacks, catastrophes and tragedies, uproot the manifestations of violence and counteractions, and the causes of terrorism, repression, siege, and Israeli occupation.

Syrian-Chinese Industrial, Tourist Ventures Viewed

JN2004070294 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 2 Apr 94 p 11

[Text] Hims—The Chinese industrial and trade delegation has concluded its talks with members of the Hims Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as the city's industrialists and investors with an agreement to establish several industrial projects in which the Chinese side will enter as a partner with 49 percent of the shares of each project.

The Chinese delegation arrived in Syria several days ago headed by (Wang Shu Hua), deputy minister of industry and director of foreign investments, and including several economists and directors of major industries in China. The delegation held several working meetings and contacts in Damascus, Latakia, and Hims during which an agreement was reached on several industrial projects as follows:

—A plant for assembling pickups which will be established in the Tartus Free Zone, in which the Chinese side will contribute 90 percent of the machinery and equipment and will receive 49 percent of the project's profits. The Syrian side will contribute the remaining costs of equipment in addition to providing the land, the building, and the other requirements of the project. It will receive 51 percent of the profits. The project, which will be under joint Syrian-Chinese management, will begin production nine months after obtaining the approvals and completing the necessary legal procedures.

—A plant for assembling micro-buses which will also be established in the free zone under the same previous terms.

—A plant for assembling electronic products (computers, TV sets, VCR's, calculating machines, and so forth).

—A plant for ordinary bicyles to be established in the Hims Governorate.

—A plant for metal cans (to cover the needs of mineral water and soft drink plants in the countries of the region) with a production ranging from 300 to 500 million cans annually.

—A plant for spark plugs with a production of 200 million annually at a cost of $8.5 million. Its raw materials are fully available in Syria.

—Two projects for the production of acrylic threads and textile printing to be established in Homs Governorate.

—The Chinese delegation also agreed with the Latakia Workers Union and the Ministry of Tourism to establish a hotel and a tourist complex in Latakia with Chinese architectural design.

The chairman of the Hims Chamber of Commerce proposed adding four other projects. The Chinese side said it will give its approval after studying them in detail. They are projects for producing lemon juice, medical and industrial alcohol, glucose, and dry ice.

TISHRIN observed the great enthusiasm and full readiness of the Chinese delegation to carry out any project in Syria. It also felt that the delegation is very well informed on the laws and climate of investment in Syria and fully understood the economic future of the region.

Afghanistan

Dostam Reportedly Denied Political Asylum in Turkey

LD1904192494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Turkey has turned down a political asylum application from General Dostam, head of the militia. This point has been disclosed in a report of the MUJAHED newspaper, Jami'at-e Eslami's [Islamic Society of Afghanistan's] publication organ, in its recent issue. The report says that after consecutive defeats in Kabul and in northern areas of Afghanistan, General Dostam asked for political asylum in Turkey, which turned it down. The report adds that he has bought a house in Germany in preparation for an escape. A Bakhtar Information Agency political commentator in this respect writes: General Dostam attempted a coup d'etat on 11th Jadi [1 January] at the instigation of foreign countries and in cooperation with Golboddin Hekmatyar. He now seeks ways of escaping. The report says Dostam and Golboddin believed at the outset they would do away with the islamic state in two hours. But four months later the putschists increasingly receive crushing blows.

Golboddin, Dostam Militias Clash Over 'Looted Goods'

LD1904173294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Militias of Golboddin and Dostam killed a number of each others men in Kabul as a result of differences on dividing up looted goods. Reports received by Bakhtar Information Agency say the clashes have mainly occurred between the militias of Golboddin and Dostam for the looted goods of Kabul residents. As many as three Dostam's militia have been taken prisoner by Golboddin's militia, and the prisoners were later killed. According to another report, in the course of clashes between Haji Zarif's men—who are associated with Golboddin's militia—and Dostam's militia, 19 Dostam militiamen were killed and three Golboddin militiamen were badly injured. Another report says that some days ago a cousin of Zardad, a commander of Golboddin's militia, was captured by Dostam's militia, and in retaliation, Golboddin's militia killed Sofi Karim, a Dostam militia ringleader, in Karta-e Naw area. Reports say the motive of the clashes between the militias of Golboddin and Dostam have been the dividing up of looted goods and the sale of weapons; this has increased their previous differences.

India

Paper Reports Agni Missile Program 'Temporarily Capped'

BK2004045894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0432 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] New Delhi, April 20 (AFP)—India has temporarily capped its ambitious Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) programme, apparently because of a fiscal crunch, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The government has indefinitely postponed further trials of the "Agni" (Fire) missile, which has a range of 2,500 kilometers (1,560 miles), THE HINDUSTAN TIMES said.

The temporary capping "is being attributed to a financial cruch," it said, but added that the postponment was seen as a concession to American concerns about India's missile programme.

Indian officials were not available to comment on THE TIMES report.

The United States has been pressing India to stop development of the missile which can carry a nuclear or conventional warhead or put a payload weighing one tonne in orbit.

Washington says Agni, which forms part of India's Integrated Missile Development Programme launched [words indistinct] could lead to missile proliferation in the region.

India, which in 1974 carried out a nuclear test but claimed its nuclear programme was entirely peaceful, has described its missile programme as a "non-nuclear deterrent."

The newspaper said the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) had sought some 17 million dollars to conduct three more Agni test launches but the government had not responded, citing a shortage of funds.

"Defence sources claimed that India was not going to abandon its strategic missile programme under American pressure, but admitted that some delays would now be inevitable," it said.

India's missle programme also envisages the development of an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile with double the range of Agni. It has also developed an array of weapons systems including surface- to-air, surface-to-surface, anti-ship and anti-tank rockets.

THE TIMES added that India had meanwhile finalised a deal to buy 30 fourth generation MiG-29M fighter aircraft from Russia, apparently in response to a U.S. proposal to sell 38 F-16 jets to Pakistan.

"There is every possibility that India may start getting the MiG-29M even before the U.S. Senate gives the nod for the supply of F-16s to Pakistan, "it said.

The White House has asked the U.S. Congress for a one-time waiver of an amendment barring military sales to Pakistan because of its nuclear weapons programme to allow it deliver the F-16s.

THE TIMES described the MiG-29Ms as "highly sophisticated," with all-weather radar system. They are "rated

better than the F-16s in most respects, except for their armament load capacity," it added.

India has fought three wars with Pakistan and one with China.

Opposition Makes 'Scathing Attack' on GATT, Government

BK1904162494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The opposition in the Rajya Sabha [upper house] made a scathing attack on the government for signing the GATT agreement. Putting up a strong defense, the treasury benches asserted that the country's interests will not be undermined in any manner. They also accused the opposition of launching a misinformation campaign for political purposes. The GATT issue dominated the day's proceedings and the house witnessed noisy exchanges and procedural wrangles. The deputy chairperson, Dr. Najma Heptulla, allowed a discussion on the suo moto statement made by the commerce minister. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee told the house that India has only authenticated the final act of the Uruguay Round, the outcome of the seven-year-long multilateral trade negotiations. Mr. Mukherjee said India and a number of developing countries have decided to work out a joint response to any attempt to link social policy issues with trade. He also stated that the preparatory committee of the World Trade Organization will discuss the future agenda, but the decisions will be taken by consensus.

Initiating the discussion, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], argued it is against the spirit of several constitutional provisions and undermines the rights of the state governments. Dr. Joshi contended that the country stands to lose even in respect of trade-related patents and investment measures. Rebutting the allegations, Mr. Jagdish Desai, Congress-I, said subsidies for farmers will continue unhindered. Asserting that the GATT agreement will help the country push up exports in five years, the Congress-I member said the fears about the unrestricted entry of multinational corporations are unfounded. The discussion remained inconclusive.

The Lok Sabha [lower house] was adjourned for the day today without transacting any business following noisy protests by the opposition over the signing of the new GATT accord. Trouble began as soon as the house met this morning and continued even after its adjournment for one hour. The entire opposition was on its seats shouting slogans. The National Front, the Left Front, and AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] members trooped into the well of the house. Some of them were seen waiving copies of a Hindi daily. The opposition leaders, including Mr. L.K. Advani and Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, were trying to speak but nothing could be heard in the din. The deputy speaker, who was in the chair, adjourned the house for the day. The house will meet on Thursday morning after the Ram Navami holiday tomorrow.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, says the government should try to get concessions in the new GATT agreement in the interests of the nation. Addressing a news conference in Parliament House, he said New Delhi should rally the developing countries and mobilize public opinion at home for changes in the GATT accord. The Janata Dal leader expressed the view that parliament should be empowered to ratify such far-reaching agreement and it should not be left to the discussion of the executive.

Minister Resists Linking Social Issues, Trade

BK1904103994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Developing countries have decided to resist unitedly against any attempt by some countries to link social issues with the trade policy. Making a suo moto statement in the Rajya Sabha today, the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said that some European countries and the United States tried to link the extraneous issues with the accord. India, along with some other countries, attached greater importance to the matter, like restrictive business practices and immigration policies. He said none of these issues became the subject of a multilateral decision or declaration. The preparatory committee of the WTO [World Trade Organization] will discuss whether to include these issues in the future agenda of the WTO. Mr. Mukherjee asserted any decision on these issues can only be taken by consensus.

Government To Import Edible Oil, Sugar, Cotton

BK1904053894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The government has decided to import edible oil, sugar, and cotton under the Open General License. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting in New Delhi chaired by the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. The three commodities will now be permitted to be imported at almost zero level duty to ensure availability and to check the rising trend in prices. The government has already made arrangements for import of 1 lakh tons of sugar. Of this 40,000 tons is expected to reach the country by this month-end. Import of 50,000 tons of edible oil has already been cleared.

The meeting was attended by the Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Commerce Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee; the Agriculture Minister Mr. Mr. Balram Jakhar; the Civil Supplies Minister Mr. A.K. Antony; and the minister of state for food, Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmad.

Russian Official on Sale of F-16's, Arms Race

BK1504121394 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 94 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, 8 April—The Russian Federation is of the view that the American offer of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan in return for a "verifiable" capping of the

latter's fissile material production programme could unleash an arms race in South Asia.

This was stated at a Press conference here today by Mr. Aleksandr Panov, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia. He said Moscow favours international guarantees rather than "trade-offs" of the nature being attempted by Washington to promote its non-proliferation objectives.

That the U.S. has offered to Islamabad a one-time waiver of the Pressler Law to facilitate the supply of the deep-penetration jets, was confirmed by Mr. Strobe Talbott, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, before leaving for the Pakistani capital this afternoon following discussions in New Delhi. Asked whether the American proposal made any sense to him, Mr. Panov, who is leading his country's delegation at the ongoing 50th session of ESCAP, quipped "It makes sense for the U.S. industry which is manufacturing the F-16 aircraft. The Russian Minister's observations clearly indicated that Moscow's support can no longer be taken for granted by Washington on crucial international issues. Mr. Panov said though the U.S. was contemplating similar trade-offs in the Korean Peninsula, the resolution of the nuclear imbroglio there wouldn't be possible without the involvement of the Russian Federation. "Our highest priority is to strengthen the non-proliferation regimes," he observed to add: "We are for international guarantees..."

The Minister remarked that in cases where the treaty (NPT) or regime was already in place, the emphasis should be on its compliance. As for South Asia, he suggested that an international conference with broad participation could be convened. Various CBMs (Confidence Building Measures) and procedures for transparency in military activities could also be discussed under its umbrella besides non-proliferation.

"Your country stands for broader participation (in such a conference). We support that," the Minister noted. He said the exact number of participants at the conference can be determined once there was agreement in principle to hold it. Commenting on the U.S. proposal listing Germany, Japan, India and Pakistan besides the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Mr. Panov mentioned that Kazakhstan has also evinced interest and would like to be part of the exercise.

The efforts by the U.S. and the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] to resolve bilaterally the nuclear problem in the Korean peninsula haven't shown results, the Minister said. He offered as an option a multilateral conference with representatives of the UN and the IAEA.

Mr. Panov disclosed that it has been agreed in principle that Prime Minister Narasimha Rao would visit Moscow in June, possibly mid-June, though the exact dates were yet to be finalised. Discussions are currently underway on the "substance" of the visit and agreements to be signed.

Various possibilities to enhance militancy [as published] cooperation between India and Russia were being explored. One among them was the supply of MiG 29 aircraft though the parleys are at the initial stage, Mr. Panov informed. He said agreements on aviation transportation and cooperation in "Space Development" were likely during Mr. Rao's visit.

Russian Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev's visit to India that was postponed due to sudden developments in West Asia, was very much on the Indo-Russian agenda and could take place after Mr. Rao has been to Moscow.

Iran

Khamene'i Attacks UN for 'Hideous Record' on Gorazde

LD2004122394 Tehran IRNA in English 1116 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Wednesday [20 April] in an unprecedentedly harsh tone attacked the United Nations and its secretary general for their "hideous record" in connection with Gorazde.

The supreme leader condemned the U.N. and its secretary general Butrus Butrus-Ghali for helping the Serbs in massacring the defenceless people of Gorazde.

"The United Nations has had the worst and ugliest performance in this test and the secretary-general who is at the helm of the U.N. establishments has set the worst precedence for himself among Muslims," Ayatollah Khamene'i said.

The leader of the Islamic revolution was speaking to officials in charge of hajj pilgrimage.

"The issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina is so heart-rending that no words can describe the magnitude of this catastrophe," Ayatollah Khamene'i said.

He also lashed out at leaders of arrogant powers for their collaboration with the Serbs in victimizing Bosnian Muslims.

"Today, the mouthpieces of arrogant powers have been forced to admit that Bosnian Muslims are denied any help just because they are Muslims... This shows that the disgraceful dictatorial system prevailing in the world cannot tolerate to see a Muslim country established in the heart of Europe," he said.

Ayatollah Khamene'i said that while Serbs have taken possession of all weapons and military facilities of the former Yugoslav government, the U.N. is preventing Bosnian Muslims from getting arms in order to protect themselves under pretext of an arms embargo against both sides.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said that the United Nations, while opposing the despatch of peacekeeping

forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina by Muslim states, has commissioned its forces to assist the Serbs.

Ayatollah Khamene'i instructed all committed members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), army and basij (volunteer forces) to prepare to fulfil their duties as soon as obstacles are removed.

The leader also called on Iran's Red Crescent Society to escalate its efforts to supply the besieged people of Bosnia-Herzegovina with food supplies and other basic goods.

Elsewhere in his speech, Ayatollah Khamene'i said the annual hajj pilgrimage is the most suitable means of voicing support for the Muslims of the world, particularly Bosnian Muslims and for delivering from the pagans and criminals.

"Deliverance from pagans is the spirit of the hajj and means a huge crowd of Muslims who cry out against the savagest enemies of humanity and their supporters... Therefore, the presence of Muslims in the hajj rituals should be meaningful and purposeful," the supreme leader made it clear.

"The objective of the large gathering of Muslims in a holy site and at a given date is to arouse a feeling of unity and grandeur among each and every Muslim and to make decision on the fate of the Islamic Ummah (nation)," he said.

"Under the present conditions in today's world, Muslims should show in one way or the other their interest in the matters of expedience relating to the Muslim world and should express antipathy towards the enemies of Islam," Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed out.

The leader, saying the huge assembly of Muslims in the hajj has clear objectives and lofty political concepts, noted "Those somehow involved in the hajj pilgrimage must not make a compromise on this divine ritual for political considerations."

President Affirms Readiness To Send Troops to Bosnia

NC1904173094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] In view of the UN declaration of its inability to defend the people of Gorazde, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed Iran's readiness to send forces to the area for defense against the Serbs.

Following the intensification of the Serbs' attacks on cities in Bosnia-Herzegovina and especially on Gorazde, and in reply to a written message from Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to our president on the painful predicament of the people in Bosnia, Hashemi-Rafsanjani held a telephone conversation with the Bosnian president last night and discussed the latest situation in the war-stricken areas in Bosnia, especially in the occupied city of Gorazde.

In this telephone conversation, the president pointed out that the people and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran fully understand and are concerned about the painful and, at the same time, sensitive situation of the defenseless and Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially Gorazde, and stated that all the officials and people—from the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution down to the Government and people of Iran—are sorrowfully following the bitter and painful events in Bosnia, which are taking place before the indifferent eyes of the world.

He stated that when the United Nations refused the offer by the Islamic Republic of Iran to dispatch forces to defend the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the areas that the UN had declared safe havens, the Iranian nation realized that the international organizations and countries are not serious in their claims to defend the defenseless people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The president added: Now again, since the United Nations has overtly declared its inability to defend the oppressed Bosnian nation, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to send forces to the areas under UN supervision to defend the rights of the Muslim Bosnians. Iran also welcomes the assistance of other countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the Serbs' chemical attacks on Gorazde and expressed the Islamic Republic's readiness to send them defensive equipment, namely masks and antichemical uniforms.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked the Bosnian president to convey the greetings and sympathies of the Iranian people to the oppressed Bosnian people and to consider the Islamic Republic of Iran a partner in their affliction and to rest assured that the Iranian government and nation will do their best not to desert the Bosnian people in their struggle for the vindication of their definite rights.

Alija Izetbegovic expressed the gratitude of the Bosnian Government and people for Iran's humanitarian assistance and briefed the president on the latest situation in Gorazde and added: Gorazde is still resisting the aggressors. But it is under heavy shelling, and the situation in the city is extremely difficult and disturbing. He expressed his confidence that the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will support the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as in the past.

Commander Expresses 'Readiness'

LD1904175894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] In an interview with the correspondent of the Voice and Vision, Brigadier General Afshar, commander of the Basij force of the Islamic Revolution Guards

Corps, spoke of the expression of readiness by the Islamic Republic of Iran to dispatch peacekeeping forces to Bosnia. He added:

[Begin recording] [Afshar] Since the beginning of the atrocity against the Muslims of Bosnia, sorrow has entered the hearts of our popular and Hezbollah forces—in particular our Basij forces—who have been awaiting the right opportunity to be present on the scene of defending the Muslims.

The present situation in Gorazde is rather strange considering that the United Nations declared the town as a safe haven, and we know that if global arrogance wishes, it is capable of stopping the Serbs, especially when one considers what happened after Iraq's attack on Kuwait. Under the present circumstances, that is after the attack by Serbian froces on Gorazde, there is increasing pressure on the minds of Muslims, in particular on our Basij forces. There have been numerous phone calls from our Basij personnel to our barracks and headquarters, urging the officials to facilitate their dispatch to the area.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, how many personnel can the Basij force dispatch to Bosnia as part of the UN peacekeeping forces?

[Afshar] We can meet the demand for any number of forces, such as say 10,000 or 20,000, or in fact any number which is necessary for Goradze in particular or Bosnia-Herzegovina in general. All these forces are of course volunteers. We are, moreover, prepared to send these volunteers without expecting to receive any payment from international organizations. [end recording]

President, Greek Prime Minister Discuss Gorazde on Phone

LD1904172694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has held a telephone conversation with the Greek prime minister and current chairman of the European Union. In this conversation, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Islamic countries expect that the EU should either take action to stop the Serbian genocide of Muslims, or allow other countries to help the Bosnian people. [passage omitted]

Velayati, France's Juppe Discuss Bosnia

LD1904161694 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Iranian and French foreign ministers in a telephone conversation Tuesday reviewed the latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and their need for countering the Serbian crimes there.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati referred to the tragic situation in Gorazde and voiced concern over the massacre of innocent Muslims in the city.

Velayati underscored the need for taking an immediate and serious measure by international communities and United Nations Security Council in this respect, and announced Iran's readiness for any cooperation for ending the current catastrophe in Gorazde.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in reply pointed to the initiatives taken by his country for the restoration of security in Bosnia, and stressed the need for continuation of mutual contacts on the issue.

Commentary on Gorazde, UN Actions

NC2004084494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Commentary by news research and commentaries group]

[Text] While global insistence on military intervention to prevent the aggressive Serbs' shocking crimes in Gorazde is increasing, the United Nations and world powers have refused to adopt a serious approach on this problem, which has greatly jeopardized world security, and have even abandoned their former threats.

With the increasing human tragedy of the military fall of Gorazde and increased world demands for military intervention against the Serbs, new overtures are being made by foreign countries involved in the Bosnian crisis to give the Serbs a free hand to intensify their aggression.

The United Nations has withdrawn its limited forces from the oppressed city of Gorazde on various pretexts. There was never more than 15 UN soldiers protecting this city, which was declared a so-called safe haven by the United Nations, and its 70,000 inhabitants from the Serbs' immense military power. But even these 15 UN soldiers were withdrawn from Gorazde at a time of danger, which is exactly the time when they should have carried out their duties.

The United Nations is now pursuing a policy that the presence or absence of forces is ineffective, therefore it is better to leave Bosnia. Thus, the Serbs have received the initial green light from the United Nations for their future crimes.

Following this step by the United Nations, which definitely stems from the decision by the Western countries and others involved in the Bosnian problem, Russia has also stated that it will soon end its mediatory role with the Serbs. This stance by Russia has of course been adopted within the framework of condemning the Serbs. However, when Russia ends its mediatory role it will be shunning responsibility for the Serbs' actions and will be giving them a free hand to commit other crimes. In addition, in closing this channel of contact the possibility of inflicting pressure on the Serbs will decrease.

Russia is continuing its indirect support for the Serbs and has stated that it opposes any type of blind bombing

of Serb positions. This is at a time when the blind bombing and the unrestrained massacre of the Muslims in Gorazde have—according to various news agencies—filled the streets of the city with the corpses of Bosnian martyrs and wounded.

In parallel with the new policy of the United Nations and Russia, NATO has also stated that it will not take any military step without the approval of NATO members. Thus, the main foreign powers involved in the Bosnian crisis have washed their hands of world demands for serious action against the Serbs. This clearly means that the Serbs have been given a free hand and the green light for their crimes.

Something that further clarifies the new program of the United Nations and the will of the world powers is the brief but horrific news about returning the Serbian heavy artillery centers around the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo to the Serbs. Thus, the United Nations should expect a heavier tragedy than that of Gorazde.

This also clarifies the fate of the world of Islam, too. If the world of Islam does not adopt a serious approach on the Gorazde tragedy, the Western countries, the United Nations, and the Serbs are ready to create new tragedies. In the midst of all these bitter and soul-rending incidents, the Muslims should once again realize the fact that in this era of force their only alternative to continue to live is to become more powerful.

Daily Criticizes UN, Calls For New 'Forum'

LD1904103394 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—A Persian daily said Tuesday that the oppressed nations of the world have no alternative but to turn their back to the existing international bodies and try to form a centre which could really demonstrate the will of the nations.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its editorial commented on the siege of Gorazde and criticized the United Nations, the U.S. and the majority of European governments for showing green light to the Serbs.

Turning to the developments in Gorazde, the daily said that the aggression took place in the very presence of U.N. Forces who were stationed in the town as protectors of peace and security but did nothing to prevent the Serbs.

It lashed out at the U.N. for not condemning the Serbs for their explicit breach of its approvals and stressed that such an indifferent attitude further emboldened the Serbs to continue their aggression.

The criminal Serbs not only did not abide by any war regulations and attacked the defenceless people, but even deployed chemical weapons which are internationally banned, said the paper.

It criticized the dual standards shown by the Security Council in connection with crisis in Bosnia and said that while the Council would hastily issue a statement for the death of a Zionist it would fail to show any reaction towards the genocide in Gorazde.

The daily stressed that this proved once again that the Security Council has no desire to enforce its approvals or the internationally respected regulations when interests of the oppressed nations are at risk.

The daily said that the U.S. statesmen, including President Bill Clinton, did not interfere in the issue because their interests were not involved. It also proved that the new world order, masterminded by the U.S., is nothing but giving a wider dimension to aggression in order to plunder nations and increase Washington's influence.

The daily touched on the call by President Alija Izetbegovic for the resignation of U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and said this was the least measure expected in return for the procrastination the world body.

The proper measure, said the article, is that the United Nations be dissolved since it is a tool in the hands of tyrant and oppressive powers who are supporting the criminals.

The reality is that the oppressed nations have no way but to turn their back to the present international gatherings and try to establish a centre that would serve as a real forum for demonstrating the will of the nations, the daily noted.

The takeover of Gorazde is the cry of death of the United Nations, it concluded.

Dailies Criticize UN 'Ineffectiveness' in Bosnia

LD2004074994 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Two morning dailies criticized U.N.'s ineffectiveness in supporting defenceless people in Gorazde and termed the body a U.S. "lackey" whose decisions were in conformity with initiatives of quasi-superpowers and only served to appease the Serbs.

"TEHRAN TIMES" in its editorial referred to the statements by some U.N. member countries expressing regret over the "miserable" U.N. failure in protecting lives of innocent civilians in the "safe areas" of Gorazde.

The U.N.'s inability to carry out its peacekeeping duties also prompted one of its officials to say: "The United Nations died on the hills of Gorazde."

"The fact that the United Nations is greatly influenced by the U.S. is no secret. Evicting Saddam's army from Kuwait, which was done mostly through the deployment

of American forces, removed any doubt in this regard. It proved that what Uncle Sam wants from the U.N., Uncle Sam gets from the U.N."

Stressing that the U.N. is only a mercenary of the U.S. and its allies, the paper said that the only possible conclusion is that the Serbs carried out the West's real objective of decimating the only Muslim state in Europe and are being protected and rewarded by their American and European masters.

Commenting on the same subject, "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" wrote in its editorial that the world's free people expected the U.N. to stop "being a pawn in the game of rivalry between the powers and quasi- superpowers."

The body's passive policy in clear contradiction to the active policy adopted vis-a-vis Iraq and Somalia, had rendered the U.N. weak and unable to assert its will where the world deemed necessary, the article said.

Referring to the fact that the U.N. has been created to help alleviate the pain and suffering of the toiling humanity, the paper noted that the body must strive to do its duty within its Charter which calls for the defence of any people that might face extermination such as the people of Gorazde.

The U.N. as a world body should represent all its members and should not come under the direct or indirect influence of a few, only then would the world experience peace and happiness, concluded the paper.

IAEA Director Arrives for Talks With Senior Officials

LD1804092994 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix arrived here Monday morning and was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by officials from Iran's Atomic Energy Organization and the Foreign Ministry.

Blix is here on a 2-day visit to discuss cooperation between the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, the public relations office of the organization said.

While in Tehran, the IAEA head will hold talks with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi, Majlis (parliament) Vice-speaker Hasan Rohani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and head of the Atomic Energy Organization Reza Amrollahi.

Meets Atomic Energy Organization Head

LD1804144994 Tehran IRNA in English 1439 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Reza Amrollahi, and secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, here Monday [18 April] discussed declaring the Middle East region as nuclear free zone (NFZ) Monday.

At the meeting Blix welcomed Iran's proposal on promoting technical cooperation between Iran and IAEA.

Blix arrived here Monday morning to hold talks with Iranian officials on joint cooperation.

During his two day stay here Blix is expected to hold discussions with senior Iranian officials.

Meets Velayati, Views Cooperation

LD1904155694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Mr. Hans Blix, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today and expressed satisfaction about Iran's cooperation with that agency. He spoke about the proposal to create nuclear-weapons-free zones and described some of the activities of the agency.

Our country's foreign minister, for his part, referred in the meeting to the threats posed to international peace and security by some nuclear-weapons-producing countries, expressed displeasure about the fact that the Quds [Jerusalem]-occupying regime has not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and called for the cooperation of all countries with the IAEA and their adherence to international regulations in this regard.

The IAEA director general also spoke in an interview with our correspondent and, referring to the constructive cooperation of Iran with that agency, praised the Iranian authorities' close cooperation with the agency's representatives in connection with the inspection of nuclear facilities. Mr. Velayati, for his part, said in the interview: We respect the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and reserve the right to make peaceful use of atomic energy just as other member countries.

Holds 'Fruitful' Talks With Habibi

LD1904183494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], Mr. Hans Blix, at a meeting with the First Vice-President, Mr. Hasan Habibi, yesterday, referring to the reports of the IAEA teams dispatched to inspect the nuclear centers of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] said: The study and investigation of the Agency's experts indicate peaceful use of atomic energy by Iran; and keeping the region free from nuclear weapons will be in the interest of establishing peace and tranquillity in the region.

Mr. Habibi, agreeing with the remarks made by Mr. Blix, described global arrogance as the agent responsible for tension all over the world and in the region; and added:

Tragedies observed in Africa, in the Middle East, the occupied territories of Palestine and Bosnia are clear examples of this created tension. Mr. Habibi stressed the need for even-handed implementation of international regulations in the entire region and said: The fact that some governments are, without justification, subjected to pressure of biased propaganda from every direction, while some others, including the occupiers of territories, are exempt from any inspection just because they enjoy the support of major and arrogant states, is contrary to logic and law and against moves towards peace and tranquillity.

The first vice-president went on: The IRI Government is strongly opposed to procurement and application of any destructive weapons by whatever state; and it believes that the propaganda against Iran is waged to deprive it from peaceful utilization of atomic energy and to prevent Iran's socioeconomic development. [passage omitted]

In an interview with our correspondent today, Mr. Blix termed the outcome of his talks with the Iranian officials as fruitful. Referring to the IRI's constructive cooperation with the IAEA, he said: So far the IAEA rapporteurs have inspected Iran's atomic installations on several occasions; and close cooperation of the Iranian officials with this Agency's representatives have been positive.

Referring to the attitude of the IAEA towards Israel, which is one of the largest producers of nuclear weapons in the region, the head of the IAEA said: So far, Israel has not agreed to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. However, we are studying ways to gain information about Israel's nuclear installations and facilities. [passage omitted]

Atomic Energy Chief Comments

LD1904183994 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Iran's proposal to declare the Middle East as a nuclear free zone requires participation and cooperation of all the regional countries, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Reza Amrollahi said here Tuesday.

Interviwed by IRNA, Amrollahi elaborated on Iran's proposal to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Amrollahi said that regarding atomic threat of the zionist regime and its non-peaceful utilization of nuclear technology as well as its non-compliance with the international regulations Iran, has offered the proposal to declare the Middle East region as nuclear free zone.

He added that the proposal was on the agenda in the annual conference of the IAEA.

Amrollhai stressed that the zionist regime has not only refused to accept Iran's proposal but also has rejected admission to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) [as received].

He stated that the IAEA's director general welcomed the proposal during his meeting with Amrollahi here Monday.

Zarif Calls For Nuclear-Weapons-Free Middle East

LD2004091294 Tehran IRNA in English 0821 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 20, IRNA—Iran's deputy foreign minister for international affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif here today called for the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, formation of security and cooperation arrangements in the Persian Gulf area, and reduction of military expenditures including agreement on a ceiling for international arms purchase and transfer to each country in the area.

Addressing the United Nations Disarmament Commission, he also called for the establishment of a forum in which concerns and suggestions of Persian Gulf states in the area of security and armaments could be aired and debated.

He also called for the inclusion of new items on illicit arms trade on the agenda of the commission.

He added, "This issue, which has very direct and close links to international drug trafficking as well as terrorism, has had serious consequences for the security of a number of states across the globe. Like terrorism and drug menace, illicit arms trade is an international problem, requiring international cooperation, and a common approach. The commission can thus play a very constructive role by establishing guidelines and pointing areas of mutual effort and cooperation."

Stressing nuclear disarmament and destruction of existing nuclear weapons, he said, "It is also self evident that the most effective guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is nuclear disarmament, including destruction of all existing nuclear arsenals. Furthermore, the obvious fact that no non-proliferation scheme will succeed so long as nuclear disarmament is not clearly in perspective should not be overlooked."

Referring to the collapse of the bipolar world order, he said, "States that hold massive stockpiles of nuclear weapons have, at least, a moral obligation to explain to the international community as to what remains as the logic behind maintaining nuclear weapons. The world has the right to know who these weapons are intended for and who they are to deter any more."

"It is quite shocking that no major country possessing nuclear weapons really come forward in this regard. At the same time, they seek unlimited extension of the

Non-Proliferation Treaty, making it absolutely clear that even the ultimate goal remains non- proliferation rather than eradication of nuclear weapon which is indeed the stated objective of the treaty," Zarif said.

Referring to the discriminations inherent in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), he said, "Probably the most important and fundamental flaw in the international non-proliferation regime is the application of double standards which has led to selective proliferation of nuclear weapons."

This has not only gravely undermined the authority and relevance of the NPT, but also had serious ramifications for international and regional peace and security, and retarded regional initiatives, he added.

On Israel's negative role in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, Zarif said, "In our region, the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Israel has foiled all efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, despite General Assembly's unanimous and continuous endorsement for the past two decades of the idea put forward originally by Iran in 1974."

Elsewhere on the NPT Zarif said, "The states which are renouncing the nuclear option through the NPT must be granted full access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes."

On the chemical weapons, Zarif said that the arbitrary limitations on transfer of material and technology has already had its negative effects on discussions to formulate verification mechanisms related to the convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their destruction.

The enthusiasm of many countries to sign the convention will give way to reluctance and indifference when the time for ratification and implementation arrives, he said.

An intrusive verification system may hamper development in the field of peaceful use in another very significant area, he said, adding that real guarantees and commitments for removal of all restrictions as well as transfer of material and related technology by the producing countries before considering new verification system is necessary.

Khamene'i Reportedly Orders Study of U.S. Relations

PM1804134494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Apr 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Tehran Preparing To Open New Page in Relations With Washington"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Despite the severity of the verbal attacks on the United States, the mullahs in Tehran are preparing to make a new attempt to open the door of dialogue with it. Well-informed sources in Tehran said yesterday that 'Ali Khamene'i, guide of the Iranian republic, has ordered that a special study be conducted on Iranian-U.S. relations and the future course which Tehran should take in this connection.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani raised with 'Ali Khamene'i the idea of preparing a special report on this issue. It is worth mentioning that in his private conversations, Rafsanjani supports normalizing relations with Washington.

The task of preparing this report has been assigned to three people: Ardeshir Larijani [Foreign Ministry adviser]; Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, member of the Majles (Iranian parliament); and Mahmud Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister.

Khamene'i's and Rafsanjani's joint initiative is aimed at moving the issue of relations with Washington out of the circle of political debate between the wings of the ruling establishment, because competition among the various wings was the cause of tension in Iranian-U.S. relations and in relations with other states. [passage omitted]

Paper Views 'Confused' U.S. Military Policies

LD1904084894 Tehran IRNA in English 0707 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial Tuesday [19 April] said that the U.S. confused military policies show that the U.S. senior officials themselves are foggy about the rules governing eventualities.

The paper referred to the downing of two American helicopters by two American F-15 jets last Thursday in which 26 American and allied personnel were killed in what had been termed a 'friendly fire' disaster in northern Iraq.

It commented that had the helicopters been downed by Iraqi aircraft the consequence would have been disastrous and Pentagon would have mobilized allied support and "once again we would have witnessed a display of American military machismo with innocent Iraqi citizens being the target of relentless hellfire of the allied war machine."

The article said, "It is only when Americans erroneously kill their compatriots or get killed by the enemy that it becomes an eye-opener for U.S. policy makers to review their rules of engagements in military operations abroad. The rules defining when U.S. forces can attack enemies have now been tightened."

After a series of foreign policy and military faux pas, now the world sees a Clinton deflated and the American people demoralized over Washington's foreign policy. Human errors made at the lower levels are a reflection of bigger blunders committed by the top brass, concluded the editorial.

Commentary on 'Biased' U.S. Message to Lebanon

NC1604192594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The recent indiscriminate Zionist air raids against civilian areas in southern Lebanon have caused a new wave of angry reactions from Lebanese political and religious circles. After the artillery shelling of the coastal city of Sidon, Zionist planes raided several areas in the south. Dozens of civilians were killed or wounded and a large number of houses were destroyed in the raids and the shelling.

Despite these recent acts of aggression, which once again turned world attention to the developments in southern Lebanon and to the brutal Zionist policies there, Washington, in a public, biased step toward the usurper entity, called on the Lebanese Government to bring the situation under control. The U.S. Administration's message to the Lebanese Government yesterday, Friday, said Lebanon must take the necessary measures to calm the situation in the south and put an end to violence there.

This, naturally, is not the first time Washington has adopted such a biased position in favor of Israel, despite all its flagrant violations of international law and its blatant aggression against Lebanon. Over the past 10 years Washington has persisted in its illegitimate support for Israel's occupation. The Zionist forces are occupying hundreds of square meters of Lebanese territory, deploying thousands of Zionist soldiers and officers in that area, which Israel calls a security belt. But this is not all: Tel Aviv has repeatedly invaded Lebanese territory, and its aggression has reached the Lebanese capital itself.

The continuation of these acts of aggression deprive the Lebanese people of security and stability. Nevertheless, the United States insists on its support for this aggressor and usurper entity. Not only did the United States fail to condemn the Israeli aggression, but it also asked the Lebanese Government to apply effective pressure on the Islamic resistance movement in south Lebanon, the movement that fights the Zionist occupation from inside Lebanese territory.

The United States, which gave several warnings to the Lebanese Government on this subject, forgot that the international public knows that self-defense is a right of any nation under foreign occupation. International laws give the Lebanese people the right to defend their land. These laws condemn Israel and its aggressive and expansionist policies. Israel is still disregarding Security Council Resolution 425 some 15 years after it was issued; the resolution says Israel must withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territories.

Report of Missile Sales to Armenia Denied

LD1604142294 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Ankara, April 16, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here has rejected accusations levelled by the Turkish Daily HURRIYET that Iran was selling missiles to Armenia and printing counterfeit dollars.

HURRIYET in its Tuesday [12 April] issue claimed that counterfeit dollars were printed by sophisticated printing machines in Iran and Iraq and then taken to Turkish markets.

In a statement released Thursday, the embassy said that HURRIYET's baseless allegations were aimed at tarnishing the image of the Islamic Republic of Iran before the Turkish public opinion.

The embassy also denied that Iran has sold missiles to Armenia.

Jerusalem Attack, Hamas' New Proposal Viewed

NC2004060194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] In the most recent martyrdom-seeking attempt in occupied Palestine, yesterday a Palestinian mujahid in Jerusalem attacked a group of Zionists with an ax and seriously wounded four of them. Along with this attack, Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—stated that if the Zionist regime promises to completely halt the massacre of Palestinian civilians, the movement will review its attacks on the Zionist regime's civilian targets.

Political observers believe that until recently, the Zionist regime acted unilaterally in massacring the oppressed Palestinians. However, since the time the Islamic Resistance Movement acquired more strength in organizing retaliatory attacks and proved this strength, the heads of the Zionist regime realized that vulnerability is mutual and that the intensification of state terrorism in the occupied territories will engulf the usurping Zionist regime as well.

Under such conditions, the proposal by Hamas to completely halt attacks on civilians is opportune and conveys a significant message. Until now the Zionist regime has been able to render several million Palestinians homeless in the land of their forefathers by resorting to direct military and terrorist methods and indirect political-economic pressures; and if the Zionist regime abandons this behavior under the pressure of the crushing blows by the Palestinian martyr-seekers, the Islamic movement in Palestine will have achieved something that Israel has never surrendered to since the outset of its usurping presence. But if the Zionist regime opposes this proposal—and it is more probable that it will—then the

aggressive nature of this terrorist regime will be further revealed to those whose hearts are bent on making peace with it.

Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations Reported to UN

LD1904083994 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 19, IRNA—Iran has reported 39 cases of ceasefire violations by Iraq from January 2-31 to the United Nations.

Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi mentioned the cases in a letter to the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali Monday.

Two cases of the violations have been carried out by the Iraqi-based counterrevolutionary agents.

The letter said that a group of counterrevolutionaries entered Iran in Ney region, in west of the country, on January 8 and blocking the roads extorted money from passengers of vehicles passing through and then fled to Iraq.

Another group of counterrevolutionary elements entered the country in Ozgaleh region, in west of Iran, on January 18. Due to the vigilance of border police, they were forced to flee before carrying out any mission.

The other 37 cases are violations by Iraqi forces which include shooting and firing mortars towards Iranian border areas, infiltration into Iran, patrolling in the no man's land, building positions, engineering activities, digging canals and embankments, and installing telecommunication antennas.

Traffic in the Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab waterway] comprises six cases of the violations, the most important of which the entrance to the Arvand Rud of a ship with Argentine flag and its sailing towards al-Basrah as well as departure of two Iraqi tankers named al-Khalidah and al-Ba'th from al-Basrah towards the sea.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Thailand

NC2004061094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The third memorandum of understanding on economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Thailand was signed in Tehran last night. On the basis of this memorandum, Tehran and Bangkok will cooperate in food import-export, iron, steel, copper, sugar, rice, ghee, palm, agricultural goods, fishing, equipment, telecommunications, and tourism. The setting up of trade and industrial fairs and cooperation in banking and shipping, as well as links between the two countries' chambers of commerce, are among other points in the memorandum of understanding.

This memorandum was signed by the Iranian minister of post, telegraph, and telephone and the Thai commerce minister.

Velayati, Sao Tomean Vice President Discuss Cooperation

LD1604172894 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here today that international cooperation among developing countries in an age when different pressure levers are being used against them, could serve as a basis for expansion bilateral ties and cooperation.

Velayati, who made the remark in a meeting with visiting vice president of Sao Tome and Principe, Habib Travada, hailed Iran's ties with African countries as "excellent" and said the Islamic republic believes in "real independence" for all countries.

He announced Tehran's readiness to expand ties with African states and said African countries in view of their bitter experience in the past with certain Western countries, pay special attention to promotion of ties with independent world countries.

Travda in return said colonialist and Western countries make "mere promises" of commercial assistance to the black continent.

He said his government believed certain developing states could offer technological help to African countries.

Travda was pleased with his visit to Islamic Iran and said his country is keen on expanding and cementing ties with Iran.

The two sides also explored other areas of bilateral economic and commercial cooperation, especially in the fields of fisheries and culture.

The group of islands comprising Sao Tome and Prinicipe, have a total area of 964 square kms, and lie in the Gulf of Guinea off the southwest coast of Africa.

Sao Tome and Principe gained its independence from Portuguese colonial rule in 1975, and presently has a population of 120,000.

Iran established ties with the African country of Sao Tome in 1993.

Larijani Discusses Economy, Palestinians, Hajj

NC1504172094 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Apr 94 p 5

[Excerpts] The pre-sermon speaker at the Tehran Friday prayers was Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, the Tehran Majles deputy, who began with congratulating the people on the occasion of the New Year and the Day of God,

which is 1 April when the system of the Islamic Republic was first established. [passage omitted]

He said: Our legitimate Islamic government is the greatest gift and treasure bestowed on us by God Almighty and should therefore be cherished. Saying that a legitimate government can be harmed by a lack of trust from the people, Dr. Larijani stated: Just as the people crowd the polling booths, the people's presence on various occasions is a source of strength for the system. By the same token, if the people lose their trust in a legitimate system, that system is harmed.

He added: Currently our enemies are on the wrong path and have mobilized all their resources for propaganda. They are seeking to magnify our shortcomings and to undermine the confidence of the people in the officials and the system.

He mentioned that one of the ploys of the enemy was to magnify the country's debts, and added: In the middle of last year, suddenly extensive propaganda was initiated alleging that Iran could not repay its debts and had become insolvent. Some European countries to which a repayment of less than 3 billion marks was due began demanding their money, even though we had purchased goods worth more than 85 billion marks from the same countries immediately after the revolution.

He continued: The same European countries have not honored their commitments to Iran worth $1.5 billion. This propaganda regarding Iran's debts is not true. The Islamic Republic of Iran is certainly not bankrupt and is one of the strongest countries in the region today.

Dr. Larijani said: The enemy's propaganda is aimed at whipping up an atmosphere of diffidence among the people. Therefore, it is the obligation of the people to eliminate the conditions that foster such an atmosphere.

He then referred to the issues of high prices, discrimination, and corrupt practices that inspire mistrust among the people and called on officials to tackle these problems. On the subject of the price spiral, the Tehran Majles deputy stated: The issue of high prices should be viewed in the context of the relation between the general income of the people and the basket [sabad] of expenditure, which is an extremely important matter. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the system, the Majles, the government, and all the institutions to bring it to a reasonable level.

He added: The solution to high prices is for the government to create conditions conducive to production. He stressed: The people should be involved in important tasks. It is not correct for the government to produce and to keep prices at a low level artificially. Speaking of the Majles' efforts to reduce prices and inflation, the Tehran Majles deputy said: The deputies of our dear nation made extensive efforts this year to rein in inflation and to present a realistic budget with lower government expenditures, which resulted in considerable economizing.

He added: The deputies have prohibited any rise in gasoline prices for 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994], which was an appropriate measure for this year. However, in general, it should not be the policy of the government to keep prices at a low level artificially. We spend $10 billion from the Treasury every year to keep gasoline prices at the current level. If this sum is used wisely, we can perform some other major task. I do not mean that gasoline prices should be raised tomorrow as we have to be sensitive to the basket of the people's essential expenditures. We should realize the effects of all price changes on the lives of the people.

Dr. Larijani emphasized: Regarding our long-term plans, we should, on principle, refrain from dipping into the Treasury merely to maintain prices at an artificially low level. The people will be able to procure their needs with a little effort unless prices are exorbitant.

He added: Cash is the lifeblood of a country's economy, and at times it is expedient that this blood should be thinner and at times it should be thicker. [passage omitted]

Thus, the remedy is not subsidies from the government. On the contrary, the government should release itself from such irrelevant matters and merely supervise and guide the people. This would encourage better management, which would receive support from the people, and there would be no avenues for exploitation by middlemen and tricksters who are adept in escaping the grip of the law. [passage omitted]

Larijani stressed that the use and popularization of indigenous products was important, saying: The use and publicity of foreign goods should be considered contrary to our values, as it is in some of the progressive countries. For example, in South Korea, which is one of the advanced countries of the world, it is very rare to use a foreign automobile and, in fact, there are no repair shops for servicing foreign vehicles.

The Tehran Majles deputy said: Our people should note that if we raise our production ourselves and make our country prosper, we will be able to cultivate similar qualities in ourselves. We should believe that we can resolve our problems and we should realize the value of our influence in the world.

He elaborated: We have not gained this influence in the world in an easy manner and we should not be negligent on this matter. When the PLO and Israel said that they were to settle their differences, we opposed these talks because they ignored the lawful rights of the oppressed Palestinian people. We were ridiculed and asked who were we to do so. However, the Muslim Palestinian nation also had something to say, which was exactly what we had proclaimed. The whole world had been mobilized to support these disgraceful talks, but the slogan of "God is great" and the nature of the Palestinian nation's actions proves the great influence of our nation and

revolution. The fact that to this day the Palestinian nation has been able to resist the PLO-Israel plot is a great victory for us.

What country can counteract a political process that is supported by all the belligerents of the world? This is a great strength bestowed on us by the almighty, and perhaps we ourselves are unaware of this greatness. He continued: The strength that the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys today is greater than the power of the bomb and missiles.

The head of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Islamic Majles then referred to relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf and the hajj issue, saying: The Saudi Government should not deprive itself of the honor of accepting our pilgrims who wish to perform hajj.

He said: Iranian pilgrims are jewels in their piety, conduct, and performance of the religious ceremonies. It is a source of shame for the Saudi Government to say that it will not accept a particular number. The Saudi Government should realize that the friendship of the Iranian Government and nation is the best base for it in the region. The friendship of the Persian Gulf countries with the Iranian Government and nation is in the best interests of these countries, as we do not covet their oil or seek to dominate them. The United States, on the other hand, does not have an interest in these governments except for dominating them and plundering their oil wealth.

He added: The United States is spreading the propaganda that it is a supporter of the Persian Gulf governments, especially of the Saudi Government. A few months ago, it was revealed that the U.S. ambassador in that country was seeking to plot against that government. To me it is as clear as day that the United States intends to change the Saudi and Kuwaiti Governments in the not so distant future.

Dr. Larijani said: We want the greatness of Islam and honorable and prestigious stances by Islamic countries. We want to sever the hands of foreigners from these countries so that the oil income of the Muslims is not pillaged. The sale of weapons to the Persian Gulf countries is a plot to plunder the wealth of the Islamic world, and I do not see any similar pillage in any other part of the world. You, Arab countries, can have no better friend than Iran.

He concluded: I hope that the Saudi officials perceive what a great base they have in their vicinity. They should try to elicit the affection of our people and our government, and this will be the best base for them in the world. He expressed the hope that the Iranian pilgrims who wish to perform hajj will be permitted to do so regardless of their number.

Pakistan

Bhutto Views Problems With India, Nuclear Arms

LD1904213294 Berlin N-TV in German 1915 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded, in English with superimposed German translation]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] In view of the great poverty in your country and the poor economic situation, it is difficult to understand why you spend so much money on your army. Could you please explain this. Do you perhaps feel threatened by India?

[Bhutto] We don't like to spend so much money on our army, but because of the threat by India we are forced to do so. Germany was very lucky in the sense that its defense was taken on by others and it could therefore tackle social and economic needs. But up to now we have had to survive three wars, and in 1971 Pakistan was split in two, into Bangladesh and Pakistan. It is therefore very important for us to protect our territorial integrity. That's why we spend so much money on our defense.

India has incidentally just raised its defence budget by 20 percent, and that exerts great pressure on a country such as Pakistan. We have therefore proposed many times that the outstanding contentious issues between India and Pakistan should finally be settled. The most important conflict is the conflict over Kashmir. This is what led to the wars between our two countries, and if this dispute is resolved, then both India and Pakistan can turn to the more productive uses of their resources.

[Correspondent] Is there a dialogue between India and Pakistan about the Kashmiri conflict at the moment? Can we expect a solution soon?

[Bhutto] Well, we would like to have a political dialogue and solve the dispute over Kashmir. We have tried to start a dialogue, but as in the case of my predecessors, I have unfortunately not succeeded either. When I became prime minister the two countries, India and Pakistan, had not talked to each other for 18 months and I said, my God, that's an incredibly long time. We agreed to conduct talks at foreign minister level. I told the foreign ministers, let's not waste the opportunity for dialogue, we must end what is going on in Kashmir tomorrow. But we were greatly disappointed. Instead of the murders ending within 48 hours, 50 people were killed in Sopor and even more in Kupwara. We were forced to break off the talks because of those murders. But we made it clear to India that we are prepared for negotiations again as soon as they take measures against the oppression.

But we cannot talk just for the same of talking, especially not when people are murdered and women are raped. That is the worst thing about war. I don't know if it was always the case, but now in Bosnia and in Kashmir,

we've seen that rape is being used as a weapon by the forces of occupation, and that's a double crime, a crime not only of aggression, but a crime against women too.

[Correspondent] Do you need nuclear weapons against India, since you obviously have these weapons and this is something which is strongly criticized here in the West?

[Bhutto] Pakistan has not detonated its nuclear weapons, and I believe that people respect Pakistan for this restraint, in spite of the fact that we have had three wars with India and India itself has detonated nuclear weapons. Pakistan has exercised restraint, but we have the technology, and if we wanted to we could detonate an atomic weapon. But because we back the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and because we are not in favor of a nuclear arms race on our subcontinent, we have exercised restraint.

However, at the same time we cannot pursue a policy of unilateral disarmament. We are afraid that India could attack us and that we would have no deterrent. After all, India is five times as large as we are, as are its army and defense expenditure. We have proposed regional talks on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, but India has refused. We have proposed negotiations about our weapons, but India refused to accept this as well, and the message I should like to send out to the world is that Pakistan is a sensible and responsible actor on the world stage, a country which has not detonated its nuclear weapons, despite provocation. The world community must bring pressure on India to have a meaningful dialogue on Kashmir, on nonproliferation and on missiles.

[Correspondent] You know that Western investors fear nothing more than political instability. What can you promise these investors? Is your country so stable that investors have nothing to be afraid of?

[Bhutto] They don't need to be afraid. Pakistan is a stable society. We have a consensus that foreign capital can flow back into the country and that companies can indeed be fully owned by foreigners. But what has created most confidence in Pakistan's industry is our state management, and the fact that we have reduced the budget deficit. [passage omitted]

Daily Comments on Indian Invitation for Talks

BK1804100194 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 17 Apr 94 p 3

[Editorial: "One More Offer for Talks?"]

[Text] According to a special report by a JANG correspondent, India has invited Pakistan to hold talks at the prime minister level. According to the report, the Foreign Office received a proposal a few days ago that the next round of India-Pakistan talks be held at the prime minister level instead of at the foreign secretary level. Pakistan has welcomed this proposal conditionally and said that it is ready for the proposed dialogue provided the Kashmir issue is placed on the top of the agenda. However, available report indicates that India wishes to hold discussions only on the Siachen Glacier issue. At the same time, New Delhi has also suggested that Pakistan should not move any resolution on the Kashmir issue at the September session of the UN General Assembly.

Talking to the JANG, the Pakistan foreign secretary rightly said that our stand on India-Pakistan dialogue is crystal clear. We do not have any objection in principle to the talks, but India will have to fulfill four preconditions to create a conducive atmosphere for the dialogue. The preconditions are: India should reduce the number of troops deployed in Kashmir, dismantle all the bunkers built by the Indian forces around the Hazratbal Shrine, release all the detained Kashmiri leaders, and allow the representatives of the international human rights organizations to visit occupied Kashmir. The conditions set by Pakistan are very appropriate and practicable and any high-level dialogue will be useless if these conditions are not met.

In the past, Pakistan accepted many Indian proposals and held negotiations in a spirit of goodwill, but, as everybody knows, all those rounds of discussions remained fruitless solely because of India's refusal to create even the slightest flexibility in its stand on the Kashmir question. Six rounds of foreign minister-level talks were held on the Kashmir issue in 1962. At that time, India agreed to enter into negotiations on Kashmir because it was facing enormous pressure due to its border war with China and all the Western countries had also asked Pakistan not to create more difficulties for India, which, as a quid pro quo, would hold talks with Islamabad to resolve the Kashmir dispute. The eyes of the entire Western world were set on the rounds of discussions that were being held between Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Sardar Swaran Singh, and there was pressure on India to make those talks successful and meaningful. Even then, India could not adopt the path of justice and propriety. Seven more rounds of foreign secretary-level talks have been held in the recent past, but all of them have been meaningless. After the three-day talks in January 1994, India invited Pakistan to hold another round of dialogue, but Pakistan had made it clear that, in spite of being a principled supporter of negotiations, it could not go on holding fruitless discussions.

The Foreign Office has thus far not confirmed the receipt of any official invitation from India for the prime minister-level talks, but if India is really interested in negotiations, then it must, first of all, agree to place the Kashmir issue on the top of the agenda of such talks. It must also accept the four preconditions set by Pakistan to create a congenial atmosphere for the talks, because it is not possible for Pakistan to sit around a negotiating table with India while New Delhi continues its oppression and atrocities against the Kashmiris. India will have to give some proof that it is sincere in holding talks and is ready to adopt the path of justice. If the Government of Pakistan receives any formal invitation from India for a dialogue at any level, then it should remain steadfast

on the aforementioned preconditions and should not engage itself in negotiations that are not going to yield any positive results. Likewise, Pakistan should also not give any assurances that it will not move any resolution on the Kashmir issue at the next UN General Assembly session. India's behavior in the past has not left any room for any wishful thinking on our part and we should not follow a shadow by continuing the process of fruitless negotiations.

Flow of Afghan Refugees Into Islamabad Continues

BK1804103794 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad—Despite a clear-cut Government of Pakistan policy to control spill over of Afghan refugees in the Federal Capital, refugee population here continues to be on the rise.

While there is not even a single Afghan refugee formally registered in Islamabad, over 30,000 Afghans are estimated to have moved into the capital city in the last six months alone.

Officials in the Interior Ministry believe that at least half of the refugees who have moved to Pakistan in the past six months are now residing in Islamabad. According to one estimate over 60,000 crossed over to Pakistan in the last six months.

As a matter of rule new Afghan refugees coming to Pakistan are not supposed to go beyond Attack, the Punjabi border town next to the NWFP [North-west Frontier Province]. They are required to get themselves registered at Commissionerate for refugees in Peshawar or at the Commissionerate office in Quetta.

To discourage the Afghans from coming to and settling in Islamabad, the government has apparently also instructed the United Nation's High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) not to provide any financial assistance to the new refugee population through its offices here.

But even this has not stopped the inflow of refugees who continue to pour in the Federal Capital.

These refugees, mostly Kabulites, are literate and well-to-do compared to those who fled to Pakistan in the early years of the Afghan war. Their resources, however, are limited. After exhausting the little finances they have, most turn to the UNHCR office here for assistance.

At the palatial UNHCR office on the Margalla Road the refugees are greeted by a blue notice board put on the wall outside. It says: "Notice To All Afghan Refugees. This office does not provide financial assistance or resettlement services to Afghan refugees."

Those who are desperate for help, ignore this notice. They plead their case with the man at the main gate who invariably directs them to the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) here. He hands them small chits which have the CCAR address printed on them.

From the CCAR refugees are again turned away without help since it is only a policy-making office.

Officials at the CCAR maintain that they have categorically conveyed it to the UNHCR several times that they are not there to assist refugees. Despite repeated messages, these officials say, the UNHCR continues to "misdirect" the refugees.

When contacted the UNHCR spokesman here told this correspondent that the office in Islamabad did not give financial or material assistance. This, he said, was in compliance with the Pakistan Government's policy. However, he added, that the Commission helped the refugees in other ways.

"We have a Social Service Section that attends to their security needs and also provides medical and legal aid to them," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, an average three to four Afghans continue to show up at the CCAR in Islamabad.

"We want help, protection, and assistance," is usually what they have to say. "There are days when even a couple dozen turn up," notes an official. "The most striking aspect about them is that almost all are sophisticated urbanites, men and women, holding professional degrees," he adds.

These Afghans are concentrated in the rather thickly populated G and I sectors, where accommodation is available at relatively lower rents. Numerous apartments and flats in G-8 Markaz, G-9 and G-10 have been taken by the Afghan urbanites, many of whom share them with their relatives and friends. Most new entrants have also rented out portions in sectors I-8, I-9 and I-10.

In fact many real estate dealers in Islamabad attribute the current level of rents in these areas to the large presence of Afghans. "There has been a growing demand for flats and portions in the G and I sectors by the Afghans specially in the last six months," says a property dealer in G-8 Markaz.

Only recently the Federal Interior Minister also noted at a televised interview by journalists that house rents had gone up because of the Afghan refugees, which he believed was a good sign.

Like most parts of the G-9 and G-10 Markazes, these refugees virtually throng the three weekly bazaars—Mangal [Tuesday], Itwaar [Sunday] and Juma [Friday]—in G-8 Sector. It is there that one actually realises what a large number of Afghans dwell in the capital city. Buyers as well as sellers, they dominate the scene.

Arab Nationals From Afghanistan War Told To Leave

BK1904081594 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan on Monday warned the Arab nationals, who fought in the Afghan war and are now living in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] to immediately leave the country or face severe action.

The government has sent a letter to all such organisations to make sure that all Arabs leave by April 18. Those staying here after April 18 May be arrested and the organisations still employing them may face punitive action. A govt official said about 120 such Arab nationals were still in NWFP, about 80 to 70 in Peshawar. Most of them are from Egypt, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

He said those with valid papers had already been allowed to stay, but other would have to go. "We can't allow them to use Pakistani territory for carrying out terrorist acts against other nations," the official said.

Emergency UN Session on Gorazde Sought

BK1904154594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan has appealed for an emergency session of the UN Security Council [UNSC] to consider the situation as a result of the Serb attack on the besieged Muslim town of Gorazde in Bosnia. An official press statement issued in Islamabad says that, through Pakistani efforts, a group of nonaligned countries have presented a draft resolution in the UN Security Council demanding the withdrawal of Serb forces from Gorazde. The draft resolution calls upon the UN protection force to use all available means, including the use of force, to foil the Serb aggression against Gorazde. Pakistan hopes that the members of the UN Security Council will discharge their obligation to save the people of Goradze from the aggression. They should take urgent and concrete steps for the security of the population of Gorazde and other UN-protected areas. Pakistan has especially appealed to the North Atlantic Council [three preceding words in English] to immediately order air action against the Serbs. The statement says the government and people of Pakistan are deeply anguished by the brutal action and aggression by Serb forces against the Muslims of Gorazde.

Sri Lanka

Visiting Iranian Speaker Meets Officials, Discusses Ties

LD1504132994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Excerpt] As you heard in the news bulletin, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri met and conferred with Sri Lankan officials today. Our correspondent reports.

[Correspondent] The need for Iran and Sri Lanka to expand mutual ties, take common stances, and also have more cooperation in economic fields was stressed at today's meeting between the speakers of the Iranian and Sri Lankan parliaments.

At the meeting this morning with Mr. Mohamed, speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, who arrived last night in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, stressed the importance of more unity between Islamic and regional countries. He thanked Sri Lanka for her stances at international forums on Iran's policies.

The Sri Lankan parliament speaker described as very constructive and positive the understanding and good relations and proximity of the two countries' stances. He called for the expansion of those ties, especially in the economic and agricultural fields. Mr. Mohamed thanked our country for her stance at international forums on the Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine crises.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also met with Mrs. Bandaranaike, the former prime minister of Sri Lanka, at the Sri Lankan parliament this morning and discussed regional and international issues. Cooperation and unity between members of the Nonaligned Movement and the need for more activity by that movement were emphasized at the meeting. Mrs. Bandaranaike is at present the leader of the opposition in the Sri Lankan parliament. [passage omitted]

Comments on U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD1604140794 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Kandy, April 16, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here Saturday that U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean was disturbing regional peoples.

"We feel ourselves duty-bound not to let the U.S. endanger the security of the region through its provocative presence," Nateq-Nuri told Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Abdulqader Shahul Hameed.

Nateq-Nuri said that this required more coordination among regional countries, a goal which he said, the Islamic Repulic of Iran was trying to achieve.

The Iranian parliamentarian also voiced Iran's readiness to help Sri Lanka overcome its internal problems.

Shahul Hameed said that Iran enjoyed special status in the international community and that his country praised Tehran's international "constructive" role.

Referring to the closure of Israeli Embassy in Colombo, Shahul Hameed said that Sri Lanka insisted that all occupied lands should be returned to their owners and the Palestinian people should be given their denied rights.

He reiterated that Colombo's stance on Israel depended on the vindication of the Palestinain people's rights.

Iran and Sri Lanka along with other countries in the region should expand cooperation in an effort to prevent domination of a country by another.

Meets With President

LD1604172094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Majles speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who is visiting Sri Lanka, met President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge today to discuss issues of mutual interest and regional and international political developments.

According to the Central News Unit's correspondent in Colombo, Nateq-Nuri referred in the meeting to the situation of Muslims in Sri Lanka and expressed gratitude for that country's good attitude toward minorities.

The Majles speaker spoke of the importance of the Indian Ocean region and stressed the need to take advantage of the two countries' capabilities and shared links to safeguard security in the region. He added: Regional coordination seems to be totally essential for the sake of a stronger presence in international organizations.

Sri Lankan President Wijetunge spoke of the history of good relations between Iran and Sri Lanka, adding: Sri Lanka welcomes the consolidation of ties and the expansion of cooperation with Iran. He asked that previous agreements be followed up so that they may be carried out as efficiently and rapidly as possible.

Discusses Ties With Foreign Minister

BK1904132494 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs A.C.S. Hameed in Kandy recently. Foreign Minister Hameed recalled that he was the first official to visit Iran after the birth of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the revolution. He noted that the relations between the two countries have gathered momentum and today encompass many areas of cooperation. Minister Hameed recalled that Iran was admitted to the nonaligned summit held in Cuba during his invitation extended to Ayatollah Khomeyni to join the movement. [sentence as heard]

The Iranian speaker stressed the need of expanding relations between Iran and Sri Lanka. Mr. Hameed told the visiting speaker that the best way forward in the present international climate is to avoid any international, regional, and bilateral contentious issues and confrontation. The two leaders also discussed the northeast situation in Sri Lanka.

Concludes Visit, Departs for Malaysia

LD1704093294 Tehran IRNA in English 0806 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Colombo, April 17, IRNA—Iran's parliament (Majles) Speaker Hojjat-ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri left Sri Lanka for Malaysia Sunday morning at the end of his three-day visit here.

While in Sri Lanka, the speaker held talks with the Sri Lankan president, his counterpart and a number of Muslim personalities in that country.

Nateq-Nuri will visit Malaysia at the end of his three-nation tour which has already brought him to Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Before his departure from Colombo, the speaker met with a number of Sri Lankan Shiite and Sunni Muslim scholars and writers in which he criticized the indifferent attitude that international bodies have adopted towards problems facing Muslims in the world.

Nateq-Nuri referred to the deplorable situation in Gorazde where a large number of people have been subject to Serbs attacks in recent days and blamed the biased stance of the international communities towards the issue.

He said that international bodies and the NATO were not only watching the genocide of people in Bosnia-Herzegovina but were trying to divert the world's public opinion from the Serbs crimes by the means of a few statements.

The speaker said that the U.S. and its allies were trying to annihilate Muslims throughout the world irrespective of being Shiite or Sunni, either living in Iran or in any other part of the world.

Calling on the Sri Lankan Muslims to maitain unity, Nateq-Nuri promised that an Iranian delegation would visit Sri Lanka in a near future to study situation of Muslims who have become homeless as a result of Tamil Tigers attacks.

About 170,000 Sri Lankan Muslims, residing in northern and eastern parts of the country, have been rendered homeless by Tamil Tigers who oppose the government.

Containers of Chemicals From India Detained

BK1804114394 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Four container loads of chemicals being shipped from India to an Egyptian port have been detained in the Colombo harbor. According to reliable sources the containers each weighing 18 tonnes and carrying phosphorous penta-sulphide, an active ingredient in the manufacture of nerve gas outlawed worldwide, were on transshipments via the Colombo port when detained pending investigation. According to a senior port official, the

shipment was stopped and the containers placed under security following instructions by both the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs. Three of the containers had arrived in Colombo on board a Panamanian vessel (Everbridge) on April the 10th, while one had arrived earlier on board the ship (Zim Barcelona). The senior defense officials said that the containers were detained following information that they contained cargo being shipped in violation of international agreements. Assistant secretary of defense, Mr. (Mahinder Bandasena), said that the ministry has arranged for the cargo to be examined, but he declined to divulge who would conduct the examination.

President Bans Foreign Travel for Parliament Members

BK1504144394 Hong Kong AFP in English 1353 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Colombo, April 15 (AFP)—President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga Friday banned ruling party MP's [members of parliament] from travelling abroad and said they should pay more attention to their local constituencies in preparation for the December presidential polls.

Wijetunga told his legislators that they "should devote their full time and energy to prepare" for the upcoming elections. The travel ban will take effect May 1, Wijetunga said in his letter released to the press Friday.

"I am sure you will appreciate that I have to be very strict in this matter, in the interest of the government parliamentary group, as well as in the national interest," he told the 125 legislators of the UNP [United National Party].

The ban followed the UNP's humiliating defeat at a key local election last month. Analysts have said that the setback at the southern provincial council could trigger a national trend.

The UNP came to power in 1977 and has since won every election except the May 24 local council vote. The defeat has sent shock waves through the UNP, which will field Wijetunga as its presidential candidate in the December polls.